



# HOMES FOR MILLIONS

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THE RESOURCES  
OF THE

## GREAT CANADIAN NORTH-WEST

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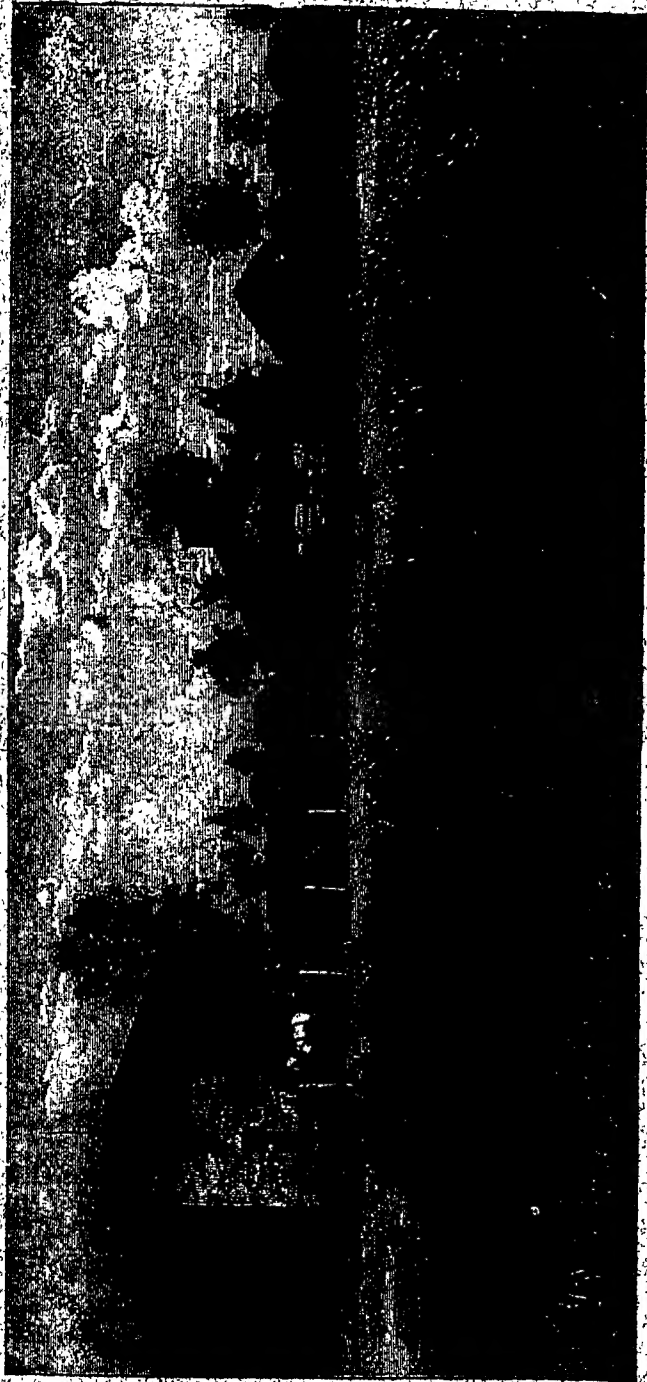
~~SEVERAL REASONS WHY~~  
~~AGRICULTURE IS PROFITABLE THERE~~  
~~AND WHY~~  
~~FARMERS ARE PROSPEROUS AND INDEPENDENT~~



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1892



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"BELL FARM," INDIAN HEAD STATION, CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY, 741 MILES WEST OF PORT ARTHUR. ENGRAVED FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.





# HOMES FOR MILLIONS

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OTTAWA  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING BUREAU  
1892



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## PREFACE.

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*The editing of this pamphlet which has been necessarily and not unwillingly on my part a labour of love, is now, I am happy to say, at an end. If it results in bringing men from the close competition, the high rents, and comparative slavery of agricultural life in the three Kingdoms, to all the blessings this land has to offer them, on the work and time devoted to a mass of material which, even were the subject matter of a purely literary character, was in form calculated to repel an editor, especially one who has never loved the horrible drudgery of revising for the press, I will look back with more pleasure, with deeper satisfaction than I should on a successful venture in pure literature.*

*I have, in order to aid the reader, made a table of contents which partakes to some extent of the character of an index—but only to some extent—so that he who wishes to understand all about the various districts in the great Canadian North-West must read the little volume through.*

*To-day is the 13th day of October. From many points all over the Great West comes the news that forty-five, fifty, fifty-five and in one case fifty-eight bushels of wheat to the acre have been threshed. I have this moment received the following telegram:—*

*"N. F. Davin, M.P.; Ottawa:*

*"Regina, N.W.T., October 13, 1891.*

*"W. C. Cullum, North of Regina, threshed forty-eight bushels wheat to acre; A. E. Potter, Moose Jaw, has four thousand bushels wheat, averaging over thirty to acre; J. G. Reid, South Moose Jaw, one hundred bushels oats to acre.*

*"J. J. YOUNG."*

*These yields are of course exceptional; but we may fairly conclude that the West will have an average yield of thirty bushels of wheat to the acre, wheat grading No. 1 Hard and of the highest quality. At the Winnipeg Agricultural Exhibition Mr. Bedford, of the Experimental Farm, Brandon, took up a handful of wheat grown in the centre of the Territories, namely, in the Regina district, and declared that that was the best wheat in the Exhibition. Mr. McKay, of Indian Head, made a similar declaration, and a large quantity of this wheat was forthwith bought for seed. From this the argument is not that the Regina District can beat other districts, but rather that this wheat is a sample of what the Territories throughout the whole Wheat Belt can produce, and for*



reasons scientifically explained by my friend Mr Mair (see page 12), in a paper which, by reason of its fulness of knowledge and literary finish, would have enriched the pages of one of the great English quarterlies.

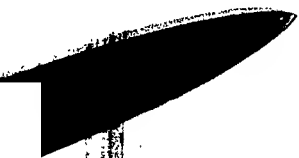
The Census returns show that in ten years the North-West Territories have increased 164·76 per cent. in population. The North-West is favourable to large families, and the children are phenomenally strong and healthy. The climate is akin to that which nurtured the warrior hordes who became the terror and ultimately the destroyers of the Roman Empire, and whose magnificent physique has been described by graphic pens made more eloquent by fear. The immigration from the British isles is increasing in volume; Germans are coming in large numbers from Southern Russia; in consequence of the drawbacks of Dakota, and the report of a large delegation of farmers who a year ago visited the North-West, examined several localities, and went north from Regina as far as Prince Albert, settlers are pouring in from that State; and in the next ten years the increase may rise to 500 per cent. or more; nor will it be long ere we have a million in those vast fertile fields.

Well acquainted as I am with the Territories, I have been surprised at the large additions made to my knowledge by the following pages; surprised even at the interest excited by what was to me an old theme and a familiar tale. By reading these sketches of the various localities, done honestly as I can avouch, a man living in Europe may, without stirring from his fireside, know accurately and minutely the characteristics and capabilities of the North-West Territories of Canada, and learn where, according to his tastes and aims, he ought to settle.

N. F. D.

Ottawa, October 13th, 1891.

[The above is a  
Draft]



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# GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE NORTH-WEST

By CHARLES MAIR, Author of "*Tecumseh*," &c.,

## ONE OF THE MEN OF '69.

Two hundred and twenty years have elapsed since Charles II. ceded to the Hudson's Bay Company the enormous region now known to the civilized world as the North-West Territories of Canada. These territories were probably first discovered under the auspices of England. The coast of Labrador had been touched by the elder Cabot in 1497, but his more adventurous son in all likelihood entered Hudson's Bay in 1577, though the evidence upon this point is not clear. One of the most eminent of American historians, Bancroft, pronounces in his favour, and the presumption rests mainly upon the great sailor's "Discourse of Navigation," in which the entrance to Hudson's Strait, according to Ortelius, is precisely laid down "on a card drawn by his own hand." The discovery of the Bay itself and its south-western and western coasts is due to Henry Hudson, who, at the behest of a company of London merchants, made his third voyage to that region in 1610, and perished, through a mutiny of his men, in the great inland sea which immortalizes his name. Hudson was followed by Button, and by James, who discovered the great southern projection of Hudson's Bay, and by many other navigators. But down to Henry Kelsey's adventurous journey in 1690 it does not appear that any Englishman ever penetrated by way of the Bay into the prairie country.

According to this explorer's journals he made a daring expedition inland, and penetrated to the Assiniboine River, and even beyond it, to the region roamed by the Sioux. But before this period it is claimed that the French, by following the Great Lakes, had found their way into the interior, and even to the shores of Hudson's Bay. The French rights of discovery rest upon Dablon's alleged journey to the Bay by way of Lake Winnipeg in 1664, where he is said have buried the arms of France, engraved upon copper "at the root of a tree," and to have made other memorials of his visit; but more particularly upon the adventures, of two French Huguenots, Radisson and Groseliers, the latter of whom was married to a daughter of Abraham Martin, who gave his name to the Plains of Abraham.

These men, it would seem, penetrated to the Bay from Lake Superior in 1665, and upon their return, having made overtures to the merchants of Quebec and to the Court of Paris, which were rejected, were astutely won over by the English Minister at that Court, and sent to London, whence they accompanied Captain Gillam, a New Englander, on the notable voyage which led to the formation of the Hudson's Bay Company in 1670. But the most noteworthy and patriotic adventures into the interior of the North-West were made, not by Frenchmen, but by French Canadians. The elder Verendryé and his renowned son, known as the Chevalier, were men whose adventures form one of the characteristic chapters of Canadian history under the old régime; whilst the envy, the ingratitude and shameless injustice which they met with at the hands of their own rulers and countrymen, are equally characteristic. Filled with desire to penetrate to the Western Ocean by way of the Saskatchewan, he and his sons established, at their own cost, a chain of forts all the way from Rainy Lake to the mouth of that great river, which was then called the Postroiac; and, a few years later, the Chevalier, in pursuit of the same object, ran the gauntlet of the wildest tribes on the continent in order to reach the Rocky Mountains whose snowy peaks, on New Year's Day, 1743, he and his two companions were the first of



white men to behold. Notwithstanding the fact that the father laid the first foundation of Winnipeg by building Fort Rouge, and that the Chevalier subsequently established a post on the Saskatchewan, where Prince Albert is now rapidly developing into a city, yet neither of these places bears its just patronymic; and, in spite of their services, the names of Old Canada's two most intrepid explorers in the North-West have almost died out of public memory.

In a publication of this kind, which is meant for the eye of the intending settlers, there is not space to enter at greater length into the early history of the North-West, or to describe the endless wrangles of its rival traders. For many years the final cause of the Territories seemed to the outside world to be the production of peltries and buffalo robes, and so little familiar with the country were even Canadian postmasters, down to the date of the transfer, that large numbers of letters directed to Red River Settlement were returned from San Francisco to Fort Garry as having been "missent" to that city. The fur company reigned, and nothing could exceed the tenacity with which it clung to its mighty domain, or the ingenuity with which it contrived to extend the impression that the entire country was a howling waste of perennial snow. Various travellers, indeed, had penetrated to these supposed regions of eternal frost, and ascertained, much to their surprise, that large portions of them were more than ordinarily fertile and salubrious. But their recorded observations seldom found their way into the hands of the people of Canada, who had the greatest interest therein; and the impression still remained that the areas of the North-West were by nature more suited to nourish muskrats than to support men. In 1857 an attempt was made to popularize the North-West Territories. An expedition was sent by the Canadian Government under the control of Professor Hind, which explored the country simultaneously with the Imperial expedition under Captain Palliser. These scientists collected a vast amount of information of all kinds, which was published by their respective Governments in the form of Blue-books. The false impressions of many who read these publications were, no doubt, removed by their perusal, and numerous pamphlets were based upon them, which did service in pioneering the truth. But Blue-books, however valuable in themselves, are not now-a-days the true and effective *media* of communication with the public. The pamphlets based upon them, too, were generally written in that jaded scientific style which, while affecting to be practical, is, of all methods, the least practical in its results. As a consequence, these quasi-scientific appeals fell dead from the press. The mind of the great agricultural community remained unmoved, and the ideas which flourished for a time in the busy brains of public men, lacking the tap-root of popular interest to nourish them, faded away before questions of narrower but more immediate interest. At length came that great change in the political condition of British America, the union of the Provinces, whose formative instrument, The British North America Act, provided for the inclusion of the North-West Territories. This at once became a question of prime importance, and its discussion by the first Parliament of the Dominion resulted in the mission to London of the Honourable William Macdougall and Sir George Cartier to treat with the Hudson's Bay Company for the transfer of their territorial rights. This commission, together with numerous letters from Canadians, who, meanwhile, had made their way into the Territories, and which had free circulation in the Canadian press, the cession of the Territories to Canada and the French Half-breed insurrection, known as the First, or Red River Rebellion, which was its consequence, fairly aroused the public mind of Canada, and soon there was scarcely a man, woman or child in the eastern Provinces who had not some notion, however vague, of "The North-West."

Subsequent developments—the connection of Winnipeg with the American railway system, the great stream of immigration which began to flow into Manitoba in 1878, and the subsequent construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, have placed the Territories, at last, fairly in the world's eye, and now all Europe is becoming conscious of their importance, and of the almost boundless promise which they offer to its over-crowded population.



But with all our lights, it is difficult to appreciate the mere size of these Territories, stretching as they do from Ontario, on the east, to the Rocky Mountains on the west, and from the parallel of  $49^{\circ}$  to Hudson's Bay and the Northern Ocean. The widening of the continent in its northern trend adds immensely, of course, to the extent of Canada, and the area of the Territories lately held by the Hudson's Bay Company, under charter and lease from the Crown, may safely be estimated at not less than two millions of square miles. Within this vast domain, and occupying an almost central position on the map of the continent, lies the great basin known as the "Fertile or Wheat Belt." This tract of mixed plain, prairie and wooded country, it is now known, includes not only the Red River and Assiniboine areas, which constitute the Province of Manitoba, but the vaster region drained by the two Saskatchewan, and large portions of the great valleys of the Peace River and the Upper Mackenzies, forming in all a superficies of something like 600,000 square miles, much of which is admirably adapted, both by soil, and climate, for settlement, and is watered by rivers of the first magnitude. There are, no doubt, considerable portions of the North-West Territories external to the Wheat Belt which are capable of producing cereals. But these portions are broken, and subject to physical conditions which will make their settlement a slow one, and one which will depend largely upon mining, lumbering and fishing interests for support. It is not into them that the streams of immigration will naturally pour for many years to come. It is the great central prairie land, extending in a varying expanse of more or less fertile soils from Manitoba to the Rocky Mountains, and from the great plains northwards to the 54th degree north latitude, which demands *immediate* attention and development, which offers the most powerful inducements and advantages to the settler, and which is capable, through agriculture alone, of sustaining a population of thirty millions of souls. The geological features of this tract are of the most interesting character, but do not enter into the scope of this paper, whose purpose is to give the eastern reader some account and idea of the superficial features of the Territories, their climate, soil and partially revealed resources. The prairie country, then, may be described simply as a vast plateau resting upon silurian strata and stretching from Lake Winnipeg to the Rocky Mountains, with a mean ascent westward of about 6 feet in the mile. The slope of this great plateau is not gradual, however, but is broken by three great steppes or abrupt elevations of the prairies, boldly marking three distinct levels. These steppes are very irregular in their outline, having received their present form from erosion and denudation, and mark very prominently the different elevations of the country at different periods. The most recent of them includes the old Province of Manitoba, and is bounded on the south and west by Pembina Mountain and its prolongation known as the Riding, Duck, and Porcupine Mountains. These so-called "mountains" are simply abrupt escarpments, which formed the ancient headlands of a great lake covering the entire basin now known as the first Steppe, but which has within comparatively recent times dwindled into the narrow limits of Lakes Winnipeg, Winnipegosis and Manitoba. The Province of Manitoba has been so often described and the features of the first Steppe are so well known that little need be said here with regard to them. On Red River and the Lower Assiniboine the soil is a heavy, tenacious clay, of great depth, mainly devoid of sand and difficult to work, but exceedingly productive in wet seasons. Further west the soil is more loamy, and rests upon gravel at depths varying from 6 to 20 feet. It is largely overlaid with organic deposits in the shape of humus, varying from a few inches in depth to 6 and even 8 feet, and water is generally found in this district by sinking to the gravel. A considerable area of the Steppe consists of marsh land, or "muskeg," as it is called, but which is rapidly drying up. Vast deposits of mud are yearly made by the streams entering Lake Winnipeg, and these with the constant deepening of its outlets into Hudson's Bay, are speedily converting liquid areas into dry land.

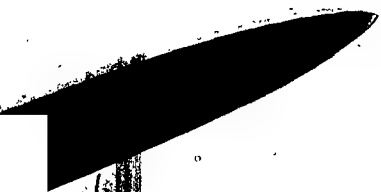
The second Steppe which has for its eastern boundary the steep escarpment already mentioned, includes the prairies of the Upper Assiniboine and of the Saskat-





chewan from Fort à la Corne to the elbow of the South Branch, and to Fort Pitt on the north branch. The physical aspects of this great division are entirely different from those of the lower levels just described. Here are found multitudes of ponds and bare or wooded hills, and soils rich but variable in nature and quality. Outcrops of sand alternate with wide areas of fertile land, and alkaline deserts, miles in extent, separate immense tracts of a productive character. Should the eye weary of the sea-like prairie, with its all but immeasurable stretches of fertility, calling up visions of vast wheat fields, the longing for the picturesque can be gratified by the most varied scenery; the landscapes of the Qu'Appelle, or more southerly, the districts of Cypress Hills and Wood Mountain. More to the north are the Touchwood and Prince-Albert districts. These last consist of an endless labyrinth of picturesque hills extending in all directions for a great distance. These hills are not steep, but roll gently down into symmetrical valleys, where little lakes fringed with reeds or wild flowers sustain innumerable flocks of aquatic birds. Dozens of these lakelets can be seen from some of the eminences, and what, with the magnificent cloud scenery, the beautiful belts of aspen crawling everywhere amongst the hills, and the sunny spaces of green sward between, the sense of natural beauty is charmed and satisfied; where flocks and herds and vistas of undulating grain are added to the landscape the world cannot offer a scene of superior promise, or of finer pastoral sweetness and content. A great part of the northern portion and parts of the south of this steppe are timbered; nearly its entire area is suited to the growth of hard wheat and from Moosomin West, around Grenfell, Wolseley, Broadview, Indian Head, Qu'Appelle, Regina, Moosejaw, Prince Albert, Battleford, Edmonton, Calgary are some of the finest wheat growing farms in the world; whilst its wealth of natural hay and its generally rolling character, make it a peculiarly favourable region, not only to the horse breeder and stockman, but to the sheep and dairy farmer.

The eastern escarpment of the third great steppe, which extends to the base of the Rocky Mountains, is formed by the Grand Coteau, the Eagle and the Thickwood Hills. Both branches of the Saskatchewan have their sources in this steppe, and in ancient days "these hills formed simply the headlands," says Palliser, "of a great bay into which poured the waters of the two Saskatchewans, at that time independent rivers, debouching were they now make the acute bends known as their elbows." The plains of this steppe are largely composed of cretaceous strata, with only a thin coating of drift, and their surfaces are, in some localities, traversed by profound rents, resembling the valleys of great rivers, but which, after running for several miles, are generally found to be closed at both ends. These rents are probably caused by winter frosts, and the landslips, scooped out by the wind from the gentle slopes, and resolve in course of time into beautiful valleys. On the lower levels these valleys are brought out by the spring freshets, and connect with the river system, though, in general, they are quite dry in summer. There is no more noticeable feature of the prairie deposition everywhere than the ease with which it is detached and borne away by water. Even the smallest streams have made gigantic excavations in the prairie and, through this peculiarity, yearly changes take place in the courses of the river which, from the various terraces which mark their excavation, must have been at one time of vastly greater volume than at present. These ancient terraces intrude quite into the Rocky Mountains, and form the various passes through that great barrier, from the Athabasca down to the boundary, sometimes expanding, as in the case of the Kootanie Plains, into extensive prairies. The finest grazing lands of the continent probably lie among the foot-hills of the Mountains, for here owing to the light and ephemeral snowfall, horses and horned cattle find their own food all winter, whilst, owing to the high latitude, the firmness and flavour of the beef remain unimpaired. Vast portions of this steppe are eminently inviting. The southern portion is, perhaps, more suited to the small stock-raiser than to the wheat-grower; but the northern portion, radiating from Edmonton, is as abundantly supplied by rainfall as the lower levels. It contains a large proportion of good land and, owing to the depression of the Rocky chain in its northern trend, the severity



of winter is often greatly mitigated by the mild winds from the Pacific seaboard. It is farther, of course, from the eastern markets than the lower steppes, but the development of the industries of the great maritime province to the west of it, and of the mineral and timber resources to the north will, ere long, make large demands upon its productions. Owing to the depression of the mountains referred to railway construction westward is easier in northern than in southern Alberta. The Yellow-Head Pass is of moderate altitude, whilst on the Athabasca Pass, which is also north of latitude  $52^{\circ}$ , the traveller, *unconsciously* attains the height of land.

After the foregoing brief *résumé* of the superficial features of the Fertile Belt, the chief characteristics of its climate and its principal resources and productions will now be touched upon.

#### CLIMATE AND CHARACTER OF THE FERTILE BELT.

The most valuable feature of the climate of the great prairie plateau is the wonderfully direct north-western curves of the isothermals, or lines of equal temperature, which not only trend but improve north-westward in a manner highly conducive to health and comfort. It might be thought paradoxical to say a degree west is better than a degree south. Yet, so far as the North-West climate is concerned, there is truth in this, for whilst the south is a region of enervation and often of pestilence, the North-West is a decided restorer of weakened function and wasted tissue. A peculiar feature of the climate is its lightness and sparkle. There is a dryness and a relish in its pure ether akin to those rare vintages which quicken the circulation without impairing the system. The atmosphere is highly purified, joyous and clear, and charged with ozone—that element which is mysteriously associated with soundness of mind and body and at war with their morbid phenomena. Surrounded by this invisible influence, one lives a fuller and healthier life than in the denser atmosphere of the east. The cares of manhood press less heavily on the brain, and the severest toil or exposure finds increased capacity to endure it. What else, indeed, enables the human organism to move about freely in a winter temperature which sometimes freezes mercury to stone? The thermometer may indicate intense cold; but, if the weather is calm, one feels no serious inconvenience in a temperature which, in the denser atmosphere of the Atlantic States, would send people shivering to their stoves. It pervades the entire animal economy, increases the appetite, and heightens the mental equilibrium. Its effect is noticeable during prolonged exercise in an unquenchable and painful thirst. This is not simply a local craving, a mere thirst of the throat and stomach, but, arising from dry muscular attrition and fierce combustion of the blood; the whole body thirsts, and cannot be satisfied. The juncture of spring and summer in the North-West is not very marked. Spring glides insensibly into summer, and the latter culminates in torrid heat about mid-August, after which the weather suddenly changes, and in September breaks up in a series of brisk gales of wind accompanied by rain and sometimes by snow. These are followed by variable autumn weather, sometimes broken, but generally clear, and then by that prolonged and divine aftermath, the Indian summer, which attains its true glory only in the North-West. The haziness and dreamy fervour of this mysterious season have often been attributed to the prairie fires, which rage over half a continent in the fall, and evolve an enormous amount of heat and smoke. Observation seems favourable to this explanation, for though the oxidation and decay of foliage may contribute somewhat, yet upon no other material grounds can they be so fully accounted for—standing otherwise alone, and as inexplicable as zodiacal light. Winter breaks up almost in the same week from Red River to Fort Simpson on the Mackenzie, in latitude  $62^{\circ}$  north. In the neighbourhood of large lakes, where the ice blends its chilliness with the warm air, the spring is coy; but away from them it opens like a flower, and though frequently checked by invasive frosts and brief snowstorms, upon the whole advances rapidly. Irregular spring weather sometimes begins in March. "Early in April the alders and willows are in bloom, and the little prairie anemone



covers the dry southern exposures." Owing to its lengthy days the summer heat is very powerful, but from the dryness and purity of the atmosphere it has not that exhaustive effect upon the system peculiar to the dog days in the east. Night makes heavy reprisals and towards evening an agreeable coolness creeps into the air, which frequently deepens into actual cold. The overcoat is consequently not at all objectionable at times, and the blanket is never taken off a North-West bed in summer.

As might be expected where the radiation is so great, the deposition of dew is very heavy, and in a country where the mean fall of rain is rather under than over the requirements of agriculture this is a feature of the highest value. The average rainfall is much less in the fertile belt than in eastern Canada, the showers being frequent but not abundant. Nightly, however, during the driest summers, the ground is drenched with dew, and the spongy earth takes sufficient moisture to stimulate and maintain to a large extent, its powers of reproduction. For this reason, the prairie grass, or the well-tilled field, in a season of drouth, often exhibits a growth which under the circumstances is really wonderful. On the North Saskatchewan, in the vast meadows of the Wascana and the Moosejaw, in the Souris and Wood Mountain, and Maple Creek, and Medicine Hat and MacLeod districts, the grass, in fact, never fails, nor has there ever been known a season when, except through widespread fire or exceptional snow the Indian pony or buffalo could not find its living there, and turn up in good condition in the spring. But the great decline of temperature by night in the North-West summer months does an additional service to the agriculturist irrespective of drouth or rainfall. In the east, where the summer nights are more oppressive than the days, wheat undoubtedly matures more quickly than in the North-West, but what it gains in this way it loses in quality. To the nightly check which radiation gives to the growing wheat plant in the North-West is probably due in a great measure the superior excellence of its yield. The rich gluten which gives to the hard wheat of Manitoba and the Territories its inestimable value as a food can only, it would seem, be stored up in the ear by a process of slow maturation, and this process can attain perfection solely in a climate which alternately stimulates it by day and represses it by night. If this be the case all successful efforts to speed the process of ripening will probably result in the production of starch at the expense of gluten, an end not to be desired by the North-West, which, if it perseveres in the growth of hard wheat, will yet, by widespread cultivation, postpone the dreaded August frost, and ultimately, not only interest, as at present, the eastern markets, but command them. Fortunately our farmers scarcely require counsel in this respect. They are constantly advised to turn their attention more to mixed husbandry and less to hard wheat; and mixed husbandry would doubtless be more generally profitable than wheat growing to a few thousand farmers in the midst of an immense and uncultivated area such as most of the North-West is at present. Such a system in any event is sure to make headway, and it is desirable that it should. But in the meantime the instinct of the people is right. It was the wheat growing reputation of the country which brought them here. They have aimed at the highest, and have not failed. Twelve years ago the bulk of the flour used in Manitoba and the Territories was imported from Minnesota, and at that time the Americans perhaps thought that they were masters of the situation, for he who feeds his neighbour is not far from ruling him. But this very year (1890) 16,000 farmers, scattered through the Province and the Territories, have produced twenty-five millions of bushels of hard wheat for export with abundance in reserve for food and seed. This is the decisive answer to our rivals who dubiously ask, Is wheat a success in the Canadian North-West?

To return to climate. The great heat of summer is generally tempered by the wind which is constantly stirring on the prairies. It seldom blows from the south more than a few hours continuously, which is fortunate, for there is trouble in its breath, and anything but healing in its wings. Thunder storms are frequent. The dreaded cyclone and the cyclone cellar are unknown; but vehement storms and the blizzard occasionally burst upon the country in summer and winter. The latter season generally begins with crisp, clear weather, which grows increasingly cold



and cloudy. The wind wheels to the north-east, and a furious storm of snow sets in, which sometimes lasts for several days. The weather then clears up, and for some time continues fair though cold. For many weeks the heavy matted vegetation of the prairies prevents drifting, and their expanses gleam with a faint yellowish tinge caused by the innumerable grassy points protruding from the snow.

Nothing can excel the purity and delicacy of the sky colours in the North-West. There is a warmth of tint and a touch of spring in the fleecier clouds which it is difficult to harmonize with the cold and illimitable expanse beneath; whilst the sky itself has a translucency, a boundless and serene depth of blue, which taxes and delights the eye. This firmness and quality of colour in the sky adds great solemnity to the North-West night, emphasizing the clear and separate beauty of the stars. The prevailing winter sunset hue is orange, deepening towards the horizon, but fading zenithward into chromic yellows of fainter and fainter shades. Over these floats a broad ribbon of amethyst, which stiffens at its upper edge, and blends with the imperial blue. The chill, tawny red of an eastern winter sunset is not so noticeable here, nor that blotted or bleared aspect of the night sky which frequently makes the winter evenings of the eastern Provinces lustreless and dull. January is a keen month, with occasional storms but not much snow, and this feature sometimes characterizes the early part of the succeeding month. The terror of the winter, so to speak, begins in the latter part of February, or in March, when the great blizzards take place. Occasionally a whole winter may pass without any protracted storm of this kind, and as a matter of fact the blizzard is generally a rare visitor. But though this is the case it is unnecessary to conceal the fact that the depths of winter are trying everywhere throughout the Territories, not so much from the cold which in calm weather is endurable for all, and for men of energetic temperaments even delightful, but from the prevalence of keen and biting winds. The sky is bright, the snow sparkles beneath the sun, which turns a warm-looking generous face to the earth. Viewed from within doors the scene is enchanting and inviting; but it is all vanity and illusion. Outside and away from obstruction, a still, small wind is blowing—a stream of intensely chilled air, noiseless, liquid, incessant, and from which there is no escape. Nothing withstands it successfully but fur; it pierces an ordinary wrap like a needle, and no specious device or cosy-looking invention of the traveller can shield the most prominent feature from attack and disgrace. Luckily it does not chill one's bones. The moment a shelter is reached its power is over; Richard's himself again; feeling thankful at last having baffled the invisible demon without. In spite of this annoyance the settler, with one exception, is satisfied with the winter of the North-West, and becomes not only tolerant of, but even delighted with it.

It must be admitted, however, that there is one exception, and that exception is found where one would scarcely expect to find it, in the ranks of middle class Englishmen. In this regard it is necessary to warn the reader who may purpose emigrating, and who may have become prejudiced against the Canadian North-West by a class of literature, if it can be called such, which makes its strong point against the Canadian North-West over this very question of winter. It is a pity that it is true, but true it is that the young men most unsuited by training, and by judgment, for colonial life are young Englishmen of middle class family. Educated young men of other nationalities seek the colonies, and, as a rule, do well; but the young Englishman of like condition, frequently does not prosper, and too often goes utterly to the bad. There are exceptions all round, certainly, and many young Englishmen are not averse from grappling with the primitive conditions of life in a new country, or from copying the methods of successful natives and old colonists. But the fact remains that large numbers of them come to Canada or go elsewhere, who through lack of energy, self-denial and common sense, are utterly unfit for the life which is before them. Frequently these young men come with heavy purses, which are soon exhausted in dissipation, extravagant living and self-willed blunders. Their last idea is to enquire into the condition of things, to get useful information, or to go honestly and manfully to work. Such matters are put contemptuously aside,





and, no other excitements being open to them, the bar and billiard-room becomes the theatre of their physical and intellectual activity.

Some of these young men are well trained, according to the ideas of the average English paterfamilias, and are not without talent of a certain kind, and some are even of a strong literary turn. The latter are often keen observers and quick to seize the salient points of every character except their own. They have a broad sense of humour, fluency and a dashing style, begot of a study of sporting literature, or even of something better. In their decadence (for these fail in the Colonies like their fellows), if they get back to England and can find a publisher, they work up their adventures and opinions into a book with a sensational title, such as "Cayuse and Canoe," or "Trooper and Redskin," for the edification of the public. The book is generally a fling at men and things in the wretched climate and colony where, for a time, their miserable lot was cast. And this sort of thing the public buys, and too often believes. Many prodigals doubtless return to England, who, in like manner, attribute their mishaps to everything but themselves, and thus their parents' vanity is spared the shock of discovering that the failure of their sons is, in almost every instance, due to the injudicious and misguided training they received at home. On the other hand, there are many exceptions to the rule. It is needless to say that there is no lack of Englishmen in the Colonies, of sound culture and sensible mind, who, like the true men who built up England's greatness in the past, and are sustaining it in the present, are in the North-West and elsewhere laying the foundations of substantial fortunes, and contributing in every honourable way to advance the interests of their adopted country. When such men fail they do not leave the country with a curse, they profit by experience and try again.

To sum up. The winters of the North-West are, upon the whole, agreeable and singularly steady. The *moccasin* is dry and comfortable throughout, and no thaw, strictly speaking, takes place until spring, no matter how mild the weather may be. The snow, though shallow, wears well and differs greatly from eastern snow. The flake is dry and hard, and in its gritty consistence resembles white, slippery sand more than anything else. Generally speaking, the further west the shallower the snow, and this rule obtains even into the heart of the Rocky Mountains. In so far as regards the animal economy, brute or human, it is enough to know that the winter is suitable to it, and temperate enough to conserve the highest development of the European, be he Teuton or Celt. As for the summer of the North-West nothing more need be said; there is nothing to surpass it in America.

#### RESOURCES AND PRODUCTS.

Having touched in general terms upon the extent, soil and climate of the Territories, its principal resources and products will now be briefly noticed. Chief amongst the former is coal, a mineral which, in view of the scarcity of wood, is of immense importance to a prairie country. In Manitoba its first outcrop is at Turtle Mountain, where it has recently been discovered, and on the Souris River, where an exposed bed was at one time on fire, and smouldered away for several years. In the Territories it exists at La Roche Percé in Assiniboia on the eastern slope of the Coteau Missouri, seven miles north of the boundary line between Canada and the United States. Palliser describes the lignite as of several different varieties, some having the appearance of compact canal coal, some like bituminous coal, while some of it can hardly be distinguished from charcoal. The lignite group underlies the superficial deposits of the prairies of the North and South Saskatchewan, and bituminous shales exist on the former branch, and on the Athabasca resting on limestone, which take fire and burn spontaneously. Coal, says Col. Lefroy, exists in seams about ten miles above Fort Dunegan on one of the small tributaries of Peace River. It has also been observed by Dr. Hector on Stinking River, another tributary of Peace River, and has been traced by him on the Athabasca, MacLeod and Pembina Rivers, all to the north of Edmonton. Two miles below Edmonton a heavy bed is exposed, and nearer the Fort there are two seams of considerable width. On the opposite side of the river several seams are exposed, the principal of which is six feet in thick-

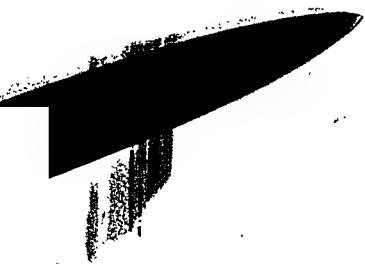


ness, with others thinner and less pure. Beds of lignite similar to those which occur on the Athabasca are observed at various points on Red Deer River, from Fort Athabasca up to the Rocky Mountains. On the latter stream above the Hand Hills, the coal forms beds of twenty feet in thickness, and at one point is, or was, on fire. "For miles around the air is loaded with a sulphurous and limy smell, and the Indians say that, for as long as they can remember, the fire at this place has never been extinguished, summer or winter." These are some of the main exposures which have been observed by explorers, not to speak of the coal beds of the Souris and Wood Mountain Counties, south of Regina, nor of the coal mines at Lethbridge, in southern Alberta, whose daily output is now over 800 tons, or to other known workings, and from them it may be safely inferred that all the Territories are more or less of a coal-bearing character, and that future examinations will reveal its existence in unlimited quantities, and in localities convenient for distribution and general use. Iron ore ranks in importance as a natural resource with coal, and this mineral exists in great abundance on certain islands in Lake Winnipeg. It exists as well far to the west of that lake, and ferruginous sand has been found in various parts of the prairie plateaux. In a country where coal abounds, the smelting of iron will, in time, take its proper place amongst growing industries, and the time is coming when the blast-furnace and the foundry will supply the communities of the North-West with their staple castings.

As a question of immediate resource the wooded areas of the Territories are next in importance. Bourgran inconsiderately calls the circumarctic zone of timber, which sweeps to the North-West from Lake Winnipeg to the Rocky Mountains, a worthless forest of spruce, scrub-pine, birch, willows and poplar. This statement scarcely needs refutation. The wooded areas of Manitoba are now well known, are largely utilized, and need not here be described. Westward there can be no doubt that but for periodic fires the prairies would be abundantly wooded. As it is, beautiful groves, or islands of timber dot them in many places, and, in a country where the growth is so rapid, planting and protection would soon make the settler independent so far as fuel is concerned. West of the first steppe, the vast interior is marked by two well-defined natural divisions.

Let the settler understand *distinctly* that the "great plains" and the prairies, though often confounded, are two widely different things. Otherwise he may be led into serious error, either through his own ignorance or the misleading of enthusiasts or interested speculators. A certain extent of the great plains is of much the same arid and desolate character as the great American desert to the south of them in the United States. They are a projection of that frightful barren waste, rounding into our territory like a huge hump, yet they are by no means worthless. The utterly ruinous denudation seems to end close to the boundary line, whence the desert graduates into the arenaceous clays of the cretaceous system, and assumes as it sweeps northward a loamy surface, and a richer vegetable clothing.

Fixet gold will perhaps be discovered in the North-West, along the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains and placer diggings in the valleys of the Athabasca and Peace River. Fluctulent gold exists in the gravel underlying the clay of the prairies all along the North Saskatchewan, from Edmonton to Prince Albert, and at the former place, has for many years been washed out by miners from the ordinary sandbars along the river. The yield is satisfactory, but the season is too short to give a profitable return, the water rising in summer from the mountain freshets, and submerging the bars. Clay for brick-making exists almost everywhere, and this cheap substitute for stone is coming into general use all over the Territories. There are however some fine quarries in the prairie plateaux, the stone of which is available for building purposes. About forty miles south of Regina, on Mowat's Ranche, is a good bed of stone, and not far from Maple Creek there is a quarry of stone which cannot be surpassed for building purposes. Salt is widely distributed throughout the North-West. The great Salt Belt extends diagonally across the continent from Onondaga to the Mackenzie River, where it crystallizes in such quantities, upon the margin of the springs, that tons of it can be shovelled into bags,



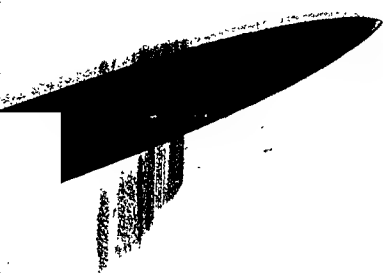
and carried off without further preparation. The Athabasca region has for many years supplied itself in this way with salt for domestic use.

Coal is found in Athabasca, and bituminous springs of unknown depths, and great prospective value. The Indians of the north, mix the bitumen with grease and use it for gumming their canoes. Slate is found in the valley of Kicking Horse River. Deposits of pipe-clay are common near Edmonton, where, also, in the middle of the six-foot coal seam, is found a layer of magnesian steatite, which works up into a lather like soap, and has been used in times past for washing blankets. Yellow ochre is deposited over a distance of forty miles, on the North Saskatchewan, and carbonate of lime exists at different places. Such are a few of the known minor resources of the Territories of much value in the future, and the list might be largely extended, for exploration is continually bringing to light many others hitherto unknown, and concealed in the great store-house of the North-West.

The flora of the country is too extensive a subject to be more than glanced at here. Wild flowers abound in endless succession from early spring down to late fall. It is unnecessary to cultivate them for house decoration in the country when a lovely bouquet can be collected anywhere on the prairies in a few minutes.

The wild fruits of the Territories are delicious. Strawberries literally carpet the earth in many places, and raspberries, the Saskatoon, or *poire* gooseberries, choke cherries, blueberries, cranberries, &c., abound in their proper regions, and are of excellent quality, and generally superior to the wild fruits of the east. Apple culture seems to be a failure in Manitoba, but has yet to be tried in the interior, where in the loose friable soils and shelter of the north, it may yet succeed.

Vegetables of all kinds attain complete maturity everywhere. The North-West potato is of the best quality, large and dry, entirely free from rot or blight of any kind, and yields a return so great as to be almost incredible. All the cereals, except maize, yield abundantly. The native barley is very fine, but the English 2-rowed variety, which is better still for malting purposes, takes naturally to the soil and climate, and will be largely cultivated. Oats give a prodigal yield, and wheat-growing, it is now needless to say, is rapidly developing into enormous proportions, and promises in time to supply the shortages of every other country with grain superior to their own. This matter has been already adverted to, but a few words may be added with regard to the history and prospects of the wheat plant in the Territories. The great cereal ranges east and west throughout the entire Fertile Belt and northward the boundary between Canada and the United States to the 62nd degree of north latitude. Wheat grown at Fort Chippewyan, on Athabasca Lake, took a leading prize at the American Centennial in 1875. It is grown successfully at Fort Providence, north of Great Slave Lake, and has been grown at Fort Simpson, still further to the north. And yet there is no subject on which more popular misapprehension exists than in the growth of wheat, even the logic of facts—the teeming wheat-fields to be seen from Moosomin, to the great Regina basin and on to forty miles west of Moosejaw—seeming insufficient to remove the impression that a severe winter necessarily precludes its cultivation. Some sixty years ago a committee of the American Congress reported with all seriousness that the Illinois territory, through defective climate, etc., was unsuited to the grain grower. At the very time this sagacious opinion was given wheat had been raised for years in the Red River Settlement, 600 miles north-west of Illinois, and since then the wheat lines have made several removes of 500 miles each, and the quality of the grain has improved with each remove. It has long been largely raised at Prince Albert and at Edmonton, 450 and 900 miles, respectively, north-west of Winnipeg; and at Athabasca Lake, 500 miles north of Edmonton, wheat culture is a success. There are, of course, particular exposures where its maturation is uncertain, especially in the neighbourhood of the mountains, where the nights are liable to invasive frosts, sufficiently severe to injure the plant. But it is now established as an indisputable fact that wheat not only can be, but is grown successfully from east to west of the Fertile Belt, and far north to the McKenzie River and its tributaries. For many years the wheats cultivated in the primitive settlements of the interior were soft.



They were excellent wheats of their kind, and generally matured early enough to escape frost. For this reason they were preferred to the hard wheats, which were not brought into extensive culture until recent years. But with the advance of eastern demand the pressure in favour of the Red Fyfe, and other hard wheats, became very great; and this pressure, backed up by the ambition of farmers themselves to grow the best, has now almost entirely displaced the soft wheats, even in the remote settlements. At the same time, though the growth of Fyfe wheat has been a success, it may be admitted freely that it has been, so far, a varying success, and that very rarely has the entire crop of hard wheat been reaped without blemish. More or less of it is annually 'caught.' Of late years, however, a quiet experiment has been carried on by several advanced farmers at Prince Albert, Moosejaw, Regina, Moosemin, Qu'Appelle, which promises to lead to good results. This experiment was an outcome of the Experimental Farm at Ottawa, and if it proves successful, as now seems probable, will fully justify the expense incurred in establishing that institution. A wheat known as "The Ladoga" was procured by this establishment from a high latitude in the Russian Empire, some samples of which found their way, four years ago, to Prince Albert, and fortunately fell into the hands of Mr. Plaxton, Mr. McKay, Mr. Craig, and a few others of the best farmers in the settlement. Mr. W. C. Sanders, living north of Moosejaw, Mr. W. C. Cullum, of Regina, Mr. Joseph Young, of Pense, and other farmers in Assiniboia also received some of this grain. These intelligent men gave the samples received the closest attention, and the results, after four years' culture, are most satisfactory. Every year, and in the majority of cases, this wheat has matured earlier than the Fyfe grown alongside of it, and has, when promptly harvested, escaped the frost. It runs up to a good weight. It yields very well; is uniform in colour and pile; and, as it ranks at Mark Lane as a hard wheat of the best quality, there can be little doubt that if it succeeds elsewhere as it has done in some instances at Prince Albert and in the Regina basin, it will perhaps displace all other varieties, and solve the wheat problem in the Territories for all time. A sample of this Prince Albert-grown "Ladoga," exhibited at Winnipeg in the fall of 1890, attracted great attention, and was pronounced by Colonel Fane, one of the British delegates and a leading agriculturist in England, to be the finest sample of wheat he had ever seen from any country.

With these remarks, the "Introduction" to this pamphlet might fittingly end, for the various Territories,—Assiniboia, Saskatchewan and Alberta,—must now be allowed to speak each for itself. The object of this pamphlet is not only to reach the intending settler, particularly the farmer, but to convey to him the truth, not clothed in exaggeration, but as plainly put as experienced agriculturists can who are now living and working in the Territories, and who have no thought save to make the country known, and to attract fit men to assist in its development.

The reader may perhaps be puzzled by the appeals made to him by each of the districts here represented, and may in consequence feel inclined to look upon the whole compilation as a mass of special pleading. Let him not fall into this error. Each district is full of promise, and it is not surprising that practical and successful men should consider their own particular region the best. Such evidence simply speaks well for the whole country. Let the reader carefully peruse the pamphlet from cover to cover, and if he bring comparison and inference-drawing power to his aid he can scarcely go astray.

#### RAILWAYS.

In conclusion, a paragraph or two may be added with reference to routes and outlets, the condition of the Territories as regards law and order, and the class of settlers required in the country and whose success is assured. Perhaps no greater boon was ever conferred on any country than the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway which, with its great branches already constructed or under construction, is making the settlement of the North-West possible. By this road and its connections the settler can now speedily and with ease examine the whole extent

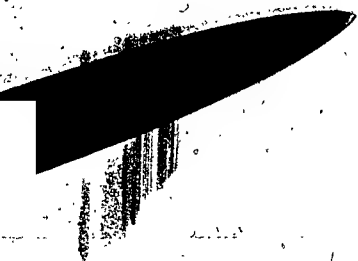




of country between the boundary and the North Saskatchewan in a single summer, and thus make his own choice. As an outlet as well for the products of the country, its ample equipment places it in the front rank of carriers. It has a rival, too, to keep it in check, in the Northern Pacific Railway which is also meditating extension in all directions, and if the North-West had no manifestly shorter and, therefore, cheaper route to Europe than either of them, it might fairly make up its mind to be happy. It has, however, an infinitely more direct route to Europe by way of Hudson's Bay than by way of Montreal, a route which will soon be made use of as an outlet for grain and cattle, and whose importance in the future is incalculable as a base of supply and an impregnable military highway between Great Britain and the Dominion. By this route Saskatchewan and Assiniboia are as near tidewater as Ontario. By this route San Francisco is 900 miles nearer the seaboard than by way of Chicago—a saving in distance, too, effected in land carriage, whose cost, as compared with ocean transport, is as fifteen to one. By this route Santa Fé, in New Mexico, is 300 miles nearer to Churchill, on Hudson's Bay, than to New York, and by it the vast European trade of the Pacific seaboard down to the Gulf of California, and west of the Sierra Madre Range, is destined to find an outlet. These are economic facts whose triumph is only a question of time. Events are hurrying in this direction, for the people of Manitoba and the Territories are becoming impatient over the route, and an increasing cry is being raised for its development. Like wheat-growing in the North-West, doubts have been cast by jealous interests upon the scheme. Notwithstanding the most patent facts in the history of Polar adventure, a groundless impression obtains that the navigation of Hudson's Straits and Bay is attended with extreme difficulty and peril. But it is absurd to describe as perilous a feat which, for the purposes of discovery, war or trade, has been successfully performed every summer, and even in winter, for over two hundred years, by sailing vessels ranging from fifty to 500 tons, and which is still annually traversed by sealers, whalers, and merchantmen. Until recent years the mails and supplies for Red River Settlement, now Manitoba, were brought by the Bay, and though the route is disused at present for that purpose on account of the many portages in inland transport, and the extension of the American railway system, the time is coming when the exports and imports by way of it will rival those of the St. Lawrence. The open season on Hudson's Straits is variable, but will probably average five months, and, perhaps, for large and powerful steam vessels, properly rammed, may prove practicable for the greater portion of the year. There are three merchantmen at present on the route, which leave London in June, and make the trip in about six weeks, against a constant headwind. The return trip, aided by a fair breeze, is made in some twenty days. These vessels are of 500 tons register, but carry 800 tons, and are strongly built. Severe storms are rarely encountered on the voyage, the chief difficulty being the passage of the Straits, in which, however, no vessel has been lost for years. The Straits are narrow, and both coasts are visible from the ship. They are lined with icebergs, which are aground, and bear a startling resemblance to lofty, embattled towers and great cities. Few icebergs are afloat in the Straits, but vast sheets of floating ice are often set together by the tide, breaking up when it turns, and leaving a free passage for the ships. But what three vessels can do, a thousand can do; and just as large fleets visit Quebec in spring and fall for timber, so large fleets will visit Hudson's Bay for wheat. The adoption of steam will reduce the passage to less than the time of a Montreal and Liverpool packet; and the directness of this route will place a large portion of the North-West, as regards British trade, in as favourable a position as Ontario.

#### LAW AND ORDER.

And now a word with regard to order in the Territories, and the safety of property and person. The law-abiding condition of the Canadian Territories has been from first to last a familiar and highly creditable feature in their history. It is a fact that life and property are safer there than in any portion of the United States

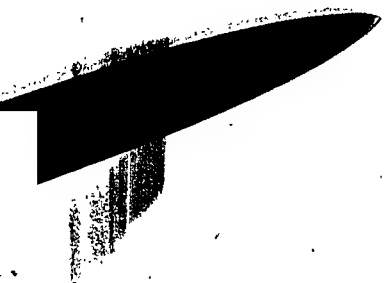


or the easter Provinces of the Dominion. The isolated settlements in the North-West are scattered over an area almost equal to the whole continent of Europe, yet the most unprotected person of either sex can, and often does, travel alone in all directions with perfect safety. In the most unguarded settlements of the interior the door is seldom fastened by night, and theft and robbery is a rare occurrence everywhere. Crimes against the person are almost unknown, and in one, at least, of the Territories, murder has never been committed. Emphatic testimony to the morality of the country has lately been given by one of the territorial judges, Mr. Justice Maguire. In a speech at the recent celebration of the opening of the Regina and Prince Albert Railway he spoke as follows:—"As a citizen of the Territories, and interested in their welfare, he was happy to be able to point out that from the statistics of crime published annually by the Minister of Agriculture it appeared that the number of offences in proportion to population was much less in the Territories than in any other Province of the Dominion. In the Blue-books issued this summer the figures are given for the last ten years. From these it appears that, taking the average for these years, the proportion of convictions to population was, for all Canada, 1 for each 142, while for the Territories it was only 1 for every 1,738. To come nearer home, in the District of Saskatchewan, with its immense area, during the four years of which he could speak from personal knowledge, there had not come before him a single serious offence, not one case of violence to the person. This was a most creditable thing, a thing of which to be honestly proud. In new countries, in border settlements, where the judicial machinery is sometimes slow in getting into proper working order, the hope of immunity from punishment is an incentive to evil men to commit crime. The border States of the Republic to the south of us, in their early days, at any rate, bore an unenviable reputation in this respect. Frequent failures of justice, and the want of confidence in the administration of the law thereby created, tempted men to take the punishment of crime into their own hands. Lynch law, however, is a thing unheard of in our Canadian west, and intending settlers, from whatever land they may come, may rely on finding here a community as order-loving, as law-abiding and as honest as in any portion of the civilized world; where the weak as well as the strong may freely enjoy to the full the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness by honest toil."

These statements will meet with full endorsement by every reader who has any knowledge of the country. Outside opinion may perhaps be coloured by the recent Rebellion of the French Métis on the Saskatchewan. But that insurrection was purely political, and was no proof of a malicious or disorderly spirit. From the first the natives and immigrants in the North-West have been singularly peaceable, orderly and honest, and the only cases of ruffianism known have been confined to the south-west, where about the time of the transfer American desperadoes crossed the border, established whisky-posts, and began a series of revolting crimes upon the Indians. They were speedily driven out of the country in 1874 by the Mounted Police, a body which was formed largely for that purpose, and which has ever since distinguished itself for its good conduct and devotion to duty. Detachments of this admirable force are stationed at all important centres throughout the Territories, excepting Athabasca, and, wherever stationed, enjoy the confidence and the cordial respect and co-operation of the community.

#### A FINAL WORD.

The intending settler will recognize in all the foregoing facts no common inducement to make the Canadian prairies his home. When he considers the ease with which farming operations may be carried on, the adaptedness of the country to machinery, the absence of stumps and stones, rendering the whole breadth of surface available, the superior quality of the wheat produced and its prodigal yield—and then bears in mind that the coming outlet by Hudson's Bay will reduce railway transport to eastern conditions—he will clearly appreciate how strong an influence these facts should exercise upon his choice. To the crowded population



of the Mother Country, the prospect is an inspiring one; for there, to quote the pregnant words of Prof. Seeley, "is a dense population clamouring for land," whilst here "is a boundless land clamouring for population." But whilst our vast prairie country demands population, above all other things it requires an industrious population. It demands active and intelligent men to pioneer it, not adventurers, who come simply "to fly kites," or (to borrow an expression from the *Talmud*), to build big doors without any houses behind them. There is no room, even in the North-West, for physical inertia, or for minds barren of all definite or intelligent purpose. The husbandman acquires independence in the North-West under the same conditions as elsewhere—with this difference, that his labour is not slavish, or, rather, need not be; for, of course, there are men of inordinate acquisitiveness, and such men will be slaves anywhere. The most important difference in condition will be a mental one. The intense labour which is required simply to clear a lot of land, say in the Ottawa Valley, would make a farmer comfortable in the North-West, and relieve him from anxiety. But on the other hand, the richest prairie farm, if possessed by a thriftless sluggard, who preferred knitting and knotting, and basking in the sun, to honest work, would infallibly see him sink year by year into the bowels of debt and poverty. This is not what is "wanted immediately" in the North-West, but intelligent, industrious and patriotic settlers, no matter whence they come, so long as they are true to Canada. These have but to visit the North-West, and look upon the inexhaustible resources sleeping in the lap of a domain which is boundless, to imagine the possibilities of its future. It is the quality of such men not only to conquer success, but to look beyond mere materialism. For like other Provinces, our Territories, to quote again, with some license, from Professor Seeley, will be "something more than wheat fields, than cattle runs or timber forests." The men who produce will also form societies \* \* They will have churches and Governments, Parliaments, Universities and schools. They will be great communities \* \* And there is no reason why the name of Canada should not one day sound as impressively in the ears of men as the names of England or France, Italy or Greece." Not only will the immigrant, then, reap the material benefits which the country assures to industry, but he will have the honour of assisting in building up and consolidating its free institutions. In fine, if brain work be earnest and truthful, if handiwork be thorough and effective, a generation of Canadians now alive may yet see their country become a notable power in the mightiest Empire in the world.

To enter the Territories from the East we must begin with Assiniboia.



"Have the elder races halted?

Do they droop and end their lesson, wearied, over there beyond the seas?

We take up the task eternal, and the burden, and the lesson,

Pioneers! O Pioneers!

"All the past we leave behind;

We debouch upon a newer, mightier world, varied world;

Fresh and strong the world we seize—world of labour, and the march,

Pioneers! O Pioneers!"





## ASSINIBOIA.

Assiniboia is a district of the North-West Territories, stretching from the western boundary of the Province of Manitoba, to the eastern boundary of the Territorial District of Alberta; south to the boundary dividing the United States from Canada—the 49th parallel of latitude—and north to the Saskatchewan. It contains 95,000 square miles. It is larger by 20,000 square miles than British Guinea and by nearly 10,000 than Victoria in Australia. There are ancient and renowned kingdoms in Europe with less area and a far less area of fruitful land. The kingdom of Italy on the main land does not come within four thousand square miles of it. It is a good deal more than six times the size of Denmark. Four Prussias could be carved out of it. If it were a great lake three kingdoms of Greece could be sunk in it, and leave room for Her Majesty's navy to sail round them. It is more than two and a half times the size of Portugal. It is half the size of Spain with her islands thrown in. It is nearly once and a half the size of the Turkish Empire in Europe, and nearly half the size of France. It is close on twice the size of England. It is more than once and a half the size of Ireland and Scotland together and more than three times the size of either alone.

The greater portion of this huge district is fit for agriculture. It is destined to be the great wheat producer of the future. The population it is calculated to support can be inferred from the following facts. Prussia east and west with 23,725 square miles has a population of 3,500,000; Greece—a little larger—a population of over two millions; Denmark still less in area, a population of 2,130,000, one half of which lives by agriculture. Portugal nourishes a people numbering nearly four and a half millions, and Turkey in Europe, four and three quarter millions.

This district has been open for settlement, but a few years. It has had a railway bringing it in communication with the east and west for eight years. It possesses already most of the features of an advanced civilization—all the necessary features: Schools, churches, municipal institutions, representation in the Dominion Parliament; representation in the Territorial Assembly which has most of the powers of a provincial Parliament; postal and telegraphic facilities wherever population would in the least justify their introduction; farmers, some of them in advanced prosperity; raisers of horses and cattle, some large ranchers, others mixed farmers, side by side with the merchant, the doctor and the lawyer, the dentist, the photographer; livery-stables with fine horses and excellent vehicles; good hotels some of them comparable as to table and bed rooms with any hotels in the world; and although nominally a prohibitory territory, what has been described by a satirist as a sure sign of British civilization—the public-house—or if not the public-house, some equivalent for it has made its appearance; so persistent are the great characteristics of the superior races.

In the District of Assiniboia are the finest lands in the world for wheat cultivation; lands that will produce all kinds of roots, not possible to surpass, difficult even for some of the most favoured countries to approach; areas specially suited for cattle and horses; ranching all along its southern border right up for many miles, varying here and there, as will be more particularly explained; coal mines at Medicine Hat, in the country south of Regina, at Wood Mountain, and in the east, in the Souris country.

North of the railway, all along the valley of the Qu'Appelle, south and north of the railway in the valley of the Wascana, horses invariably, cattle with some slight attention in over-severe winters, can flourish unhoused the year round. In every part sheep can, as we say in the North-West, "rustle" for themselves.

The writer has visited the homes of farmers in every part of this country, and he never visited a house where he did not find plenty. He knows farmers in every





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part who have acquired wealth, and all have achieved comfort. He knows men who came here with five or six dollars, who have farms and stock, and not a few. There are parts of the world more picturesque, but no spot of new country on the globe where to farm is so easy; the land wherever we turn is ready for the plough. It has been said of a fruitful land in the old world, "tickle it and it laughs into a harvest." But Assiniboia is of a robust type, and requires the vigorous will and the vigorous arm; it requires a rude embrace; it needs to be thoroughly cultivated; it needs thorough breaking, and then the laughing harvest of the land referred to is nothing to the bountiful yield that awaits the efforts of the pioneer in Assiniboia. The whole country is marked by great divisions; ranges marking distances of six miles from east to west; township lines running north and south at intervals of six miles, the townships being divided into thirty-six sections of one square mile each.

This great district is divided politically into twelve constituencies for the Local Assembly, and two for the Dominion House of Commons. It has been thought that by asking the members of the Local House questions respecting their districts we should in a convenient way get at the character of each portion of this vast area. They were asked to express themselves on sixteen heads under which searching questions were placed.

There are some things on which all are equal. All have the same advantages in the matter of schools. We have a most efficient school system, fostered by a liberal grant from the Dominion Government. Wherever a few children are found a school-board may be formed; a grant obtained; and there is no difficulty in getting a capable school teacher who must have qualified by passing an examination. The Government pays from 65 to 75 per cent. of the salaries of teachers. Regina has a high school in connection with the public school where education is given free. Teachers must hold proper certificates, and high salaries are paid in order to obtain the best talent. The desks, maps, books and other appliances equal, if not surpass, anything of the kind in England to-day.

Agricultural societies exist all over Assiniboia, as do Boards of Trade in all the towns.

As to churches the moment a town is started four denominations at once choose sites for their Churches, and the liberality with which money is subscribed would astonish one fresh from the Old Country.

There is no part of Assiniboia where stock cannot be successfully raised.

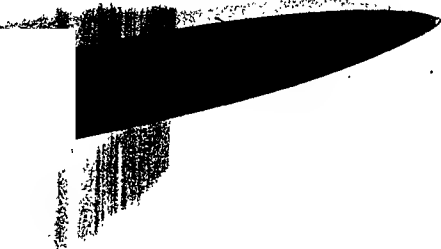
The climate is much the same from Moosomin to Moosejaw, though even at Moosejaw the effect of the Chinooks begins to be perceptibly felt. More westerly the winters are milder. The summer is hot, but there is always a breeze, and no matter how hot the day the nights are cool. No zymotic, epidemic or endemic diseases exist, and the climate is especially favourable to those suffering from asthma or pulmonary affections. The winter is wonderfully attractive—cold, clear, dry, bracing, healthy, and the beauty of the snowy prairies when the morning sun's rays

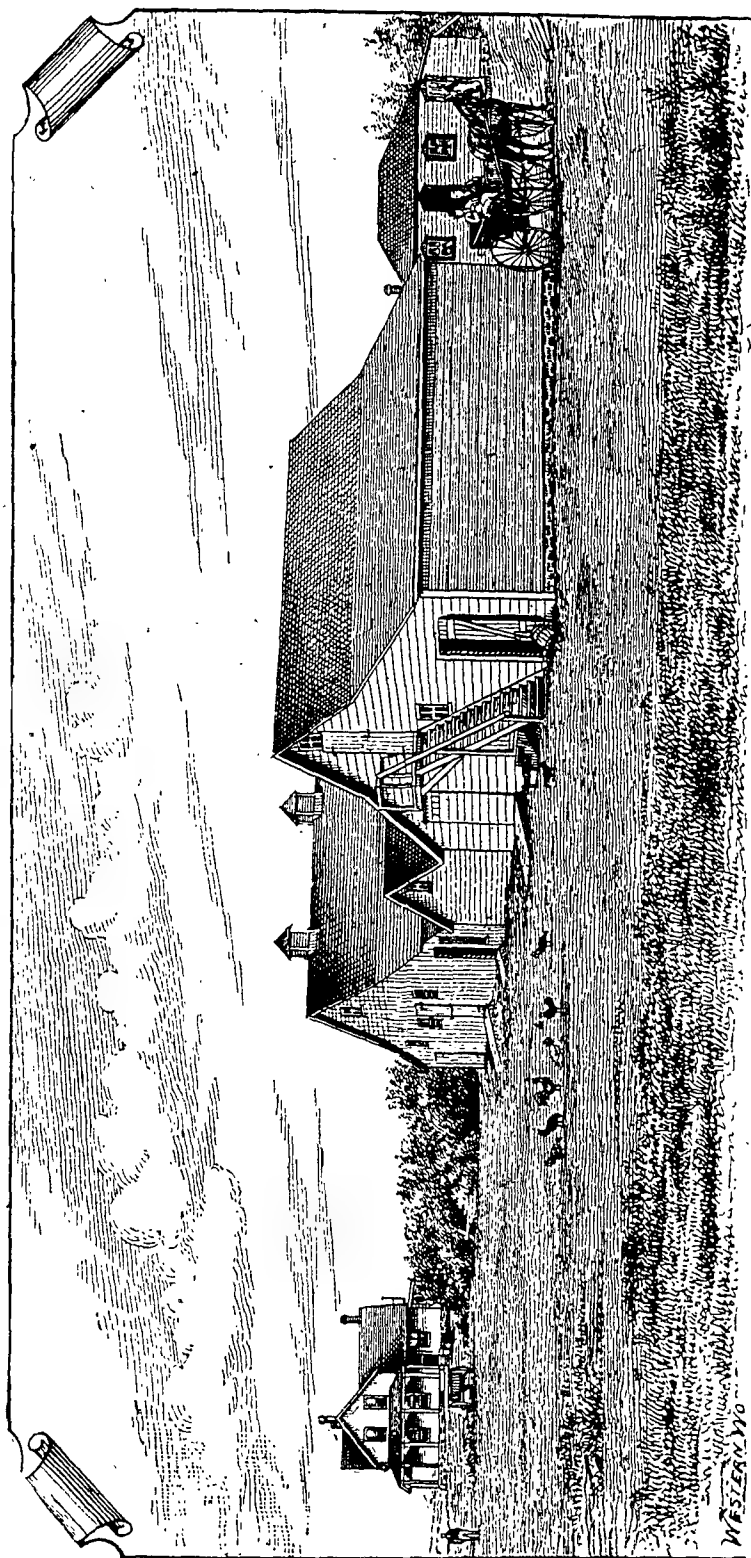
"Go flashing flame-wise o'er their snowy waves,  
More gorgeous in their bright commingling hues  
Than cunningest mystery of colours quaint  
In old cathedral windows, shedding gloried light  
Thro' pillar'd silent aisles,"

it would be hard to exaggerate. Sometimes the winters are very mild, as for instance this of 1890-91. To-day the 31st of January, 1891, the sun shining in through my office is unpleasantly hot, and on the 26th instant when I was at Maple Creek, but that there was no vegetation you might have thought it was a beautiful spring day in England.

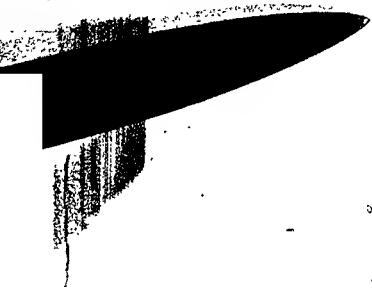
From Moosomin to Swift Current and further west, especially at Maple Creek, Medicine Hat and Dunmore, all the small fruits can be successfully cultivated. To the floral beauty of the prairie it would be hard to do justice—a sea of grasses and flowers, violets, daisies, lilies, orchids, harebells, anemones, trailing honey suckle, whitethorn, grey bush willow, and like a queen among her odorous subjects, the light pink rose.

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A NORTH-WEST HOMESTEAD.



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As to roads and bridges, everywhere the Government has placed a sum at the disposal of the Local Government for these, and as a consequence everywhere there are good roads and bridges. As to agricultural implements there is no place where there is not a centre where they can be obtained.

Postal and telegraphic facilities—these would astonish old world folk. The moment a few people are gathered in a settlement a post-office is given them, and the telegraph follows the railway.

The Canadian Pacific Railway runs from east to west through Assiniboia, and from Regina, the capital of the Territories, a railway runs north to Saskatchewan. Every town has its newspaper, some, two; Curling Clubs, Social Clubs, Young Men's Christian Associations, hot houses, and all the amenities of social life are found. The latest improvements in science are utilized. Regina and Moosejaw are lit by electricity.

### MOOSOMIN DISTRICT.

J. R. NEFF, M. L. A.

At the eastern gate, so to speak of Assiniboia, stands the town of Moosomin, the capital of the Moosomin District. This district extends south to Township ten; and north as far as the Montreal Colony, of which hereafter, and running west, roughly speaking, for three ranges—the whole country is a bluff country of rolling prairie, and well suited for mixed farming, but the valley of the Qu'Appelle, here as elsewhere, is not to be surpassed for ranching purposes.

The soil is in general a black loam with here and there knolls, blue clay and subsoil; and that it is adapted for all kinds of grain is proved by the excellent crops grown all over the district. When the sloughs are dry an abundant supply of water can be got by boring. The root crops attain an immense size, and there is an abundant supply of hay for fodder. The Pipestone River, about six miles south of Moosomin, is a beautiful stream of clear water. Too small for commercial purposes, its fairly wooded banks add to the picturesqueness of the locality through which it runs. Further south still is the River Souris, so that what with the Qu'Appelle and these two rivers this region is well watered. These streams are rapid enough to obtain water power, by damming, for milling purposes. To the north—especially at the juncture of the Cut-Arm with the Qu'Appelle—the scenery is wonderfully beautiful; there is an abundance of water and timber, and the soil of the highest quality—like the rest—a black loam.

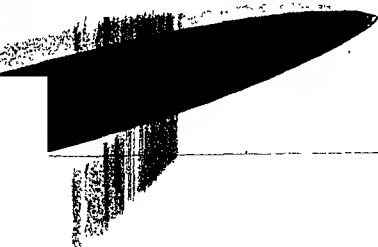
The climate is as elsewhere, in the mind of a north-wester, perfect; cold and bracing in winter, warm in summer, but with cool nights. No trace of anything miasmatic, and, as the lives of young and old prove, exceedingly healthy.

The average temperature in summer is about sixty degrees, and in winter it is from ten to fifteen degrees below zero. Spring opens about the 15th March. Seeding is usually a fortnight later. Harvest commences about the 15th August; winter generally sets in about the 15th November and breaks up at the beginning of March. The winter time is employed in attending to stock, working in the woods, marketing grain, fishing and hunting.

This observation about winter applies to all Western Assiniboia as far west as the western boundary. The winter is not so hard upon people as the inexperienced would think. There is a brief spell of rough weather at times; but hardly ever of a character to deter people from their own outdoor work.

Wheat, oats and barley are largely grown, and Mr. Neff, the member for the district in the Local House, assures us that the yield is from twenty-five to fifty bushels of wheat, thirty-five to seventy-five of oats, and barley correspondingly large. This, we believe, is literally true, but the incoming settler may be well content when he gets thirty-five bushels to the acre.

The wheat is plump and hard, and commands the highest price, as do the oats and barley. All kinds of root crops are successfully grown.



There is an abundance of wild hay. Pease, oats and vegetables yield largely, and fodder can be had for every kind of stock. The whole district, especially in the north, is well suited for stock raising, and cattle, sheep and horses thrive, running out all winter. In the case of the cattle, during two or three months, it is desirable, where the bluffs are not sufficiently dense, to have an open shed. The raising of stock is attended, Mr. Neff tells us, and we know it to be true, with a good margin of profit. Polled Angus and Durham have mostly been raised here, but every kind of cattle thrive. So with horses, but the Ontario and French Canadian are the best. In sheep Shropshire and Southdown are preferred.

No country can be found more suitable for dairy farming, as Professor Robertson, the Dominion Government Dairy Commissioner's quick and experienced eye saw. The grass is luxuriant and nutritious; abundance of hay and, in most places, plenty of water.

The Canadian Pacific Railway furnishes a ready and fairly cheap means of transportation, while in Wapella, and especially in Moosomin there is a good home market; the foreign demand is beginning to be already felt.

The chief fuel supply is poplar wood; of which there is an abundance, and at convenient distances, but the Spuris coal mines are beginning to be worked, and the "black diamond" from these vast coal fields of the south will soon supplement, if it will not supplant the poplar.

Building is an important thing for the settler. Up to the present, north of the Qu'Appelle, a sufficient supply has been had on the prairie, and for some years yet can be obtained from the shores of the Qu'Appelle. All over the district there is good stone. Good brick are made within a few miles of Moosomin, and around Wapella lime is manufactured from the limestone, while coal is being worked to advantage. Water can be obtained at from twenty to fifty feet, and generally good.

Moosomin, Wapella, Millwood and Langenburg are the home market. Moosomin, one of the most thriving towns in the west, being the principal. At Moosomin there is a large elevator and flour-mill, so that wheat need not go abegging. Prices have recently (1890) ruled at 80 cents per bushel for wheat, 50 cents for oats, 90 cents and \$1 for potatoes; butter from 10 cents to 15 cents and 20 cents per pound; eggs 15 cents; nor is the local demand likely to decline, as railway building is going forward. The Moosomin *Courier* is published here.

The delicate beauty of North-West flowers strikes every visitor, especially the rose, crocus, tiger-lily, convolvulus, blue bells, honey suckle. Hops grow in great luxuriance, as do all the small fruit.

### SOURIS.

J. G. TURRIFF, M. L. A.

South of the Moosomin District we have the Souris, extending from the northern boundary of the United States to township 9, inclusive—say sixteen miles, and from range 1 to range 7, forty-two miles.

This is an open prairie country—neither frost nor bush, and broadly speaking, level from horizon to horizon. It is well adapted for grain-growing and dairy farming. It will always be a wheat-growing country, with cattle ranches to the north in the neighbourhood of Moose Mountain.

The soil is a rich black loam, averaging from two to three feet deep with a clay sub-soil. The land is well watered by a fine creek and the Souris River. The sloughs are very numerous.

The average summer temperature runs from 50° to 80° Fahrenheit, some instances it reach 90° and 95°. Winter temperature reaches from zero down to 25° below, on the average, and in some extreme instances 38° and 40° below zero. Spring generally opens about the end of March, and seed time commences from the 1st to the 7th of April. Harvest begins for barley, about 1st of August; wheat, oats, &c., from the 10th to 15th August. Winter generally makes its appearance about the middle of November and breaks up in March, sometimes earlier. The climate in winter permits of out-door work of every kind.





"The crops," says Mr. Turriff, "that can and have been cultivated to advantage are wheat, oats, barley, pease, hungarian and millet, also all kinds of roots and vegetables. During favourable seasons—the present one (that of 1890) I will take as a sample—the average yield of wheat would be 28 to 30 bushels per acre; extra careful cultivation can produce 40 bushels per acre. Oats might safely be estimated this year from 55 to 70 bushels per acre, and barley 35 bushels per acre." All kinds of vegetables can be grown and yield enormously. Potatoes, turnips, mangolds, carrots, beets, cabbages, onions, leeks, &c., &c.; corn, tomatoes, melons and the like require attention, but can be cultivated to advantage.

On the subject of stock-raising, Mr. Turriff says: "The greater part of this district is better adapted for grain growing and dairy stock only. The absence of natural shelter, such as trees and bluffs, which protect cattle from the heat in summer and the storm in winter, renders it not quite so suitable for ranching purposes. Sheep do very well, and several nice flocks are to be seen dotted over the prairie. Best breeds for cattle I would say Ayrshire, (Galloway or Polled-Angus) and Durham; sheep and good cross of the English Downs, my preference every time would be Oxford Down. Open woolled sheep are decidedly a mistake."

He tells us the good general-purpose Canadian horse is "the article the doctors order," and that a number of settlers have been successful in breeding broncho mares to heavy Canadian horses. In this way one can get horses suitable for driving and for light work on the farm.

This district is well adapted for dairy farming. All the rich grasses of the North-West flourish here in abundance. As a rule there is plenty of native hay. Hungarian and millet are easily cultivated and western corn. "The water," says Mr. Turriff, "generally speaking is pure and in most places easily obtained; some have had difficulty in getting water, and others are troubled with alkali."

There is one creamery in the north; the foreign demand for dairy produce not having yet developed for want of railway facilities; but there are a number of private dairies of considerable size throughout the district.

As to fuel there is plenty of coal along the Souris on the south, and plenty of wood on the mountains to the north. Several coal mines are at work.

Incoming settlers can get vacant land in any part of the district, either to homestead or purchase. The nearest point to the main line of railway is fifty-five miles. The price of land varies from two and a-half dollars up.

For building there is plenty of stone. Of lime, whence concrete buildings may be made, there is an inexhaustible supply. Logs are getting scarce. Lumber can, of course, be got, but it has to be hauled a long distance. There are no materials for fencing. Wire fences must be used where fences are necessary.

On the subject of water and wells Mr. Turriff says:—

"A large number have got good water in wells with very little trouble, others have had more difficulty, while some have got bad water, tainted with alkali; but I have no doubt there is abundance of good water if you happen to strike the right place."

Abundance of fish in lakes and creeks and game of all kinds.

Moosomin is the nearest market, and it is as good as any in the North West Territories.

The prospects of railway communication at an early day are good. Since Mr. Turriff wrote the prospects have become certain of a railway within a year.

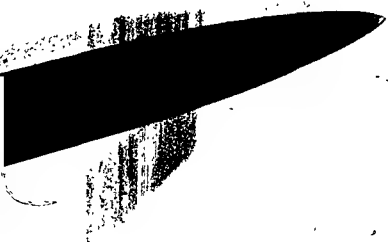
All the small fruit flourish.

There has been very little fruit cultivation in gardens; but enough has been done to show that fruit cultivation would be successful and profitable.

Moving west we come to

#### THE WHITEWOOD DISTRICT,

represented in our Local House by Mr. A. G. Thorburn, of Broadview. It comprises townships ten to twenty inclusive, in ranges one to six inclusive, west of 2nd meridian, making sixty-six townships, and covering 2,376 square miles. The Canadian Pacific



Railway runs through it. Mr. Thorburn says: "In townships 10 and 11, west of range 1, lies the Moose Mountain, a stretch of high wooded land, with intervals of rich prairie, interspersed with innumerable small lakes, ponds and deep gullies. Abundance of prairie grass, forest shelter and water make it very suitable for cattle raising. The prairie portions are a rich loamy soil, fitted to produce heavy crops of grain, roots and vegetables.

"North of the mountain to the Pipestone Creek an area of sixteen Townships, is open prairie, part level, part rolling, with plenty of hay on the lower stretches; small ponds and creeks here and there make this part well adapted for mixed farming, the soil ranging from heavy to light loam."

Approaching the Pipestone Creek, which runs diagonally through Tps. 13, 14, 15, 16, "Weed Hills," poplar timber becomes abundant with breaks of prairie. Here the soil is a free working loam, good for large crops of cereals and roots. He tells us that throughout the district water is had "readily." Springs show all along the banks of the Creek, and hay is abundant. North and across the railway to the Qu'Appelle River the land is chiefly prairie—for the most part rolling, enriched by ponds and bluffs of poplar, giving you a country well suited for mixed farming. Beyond the valley on the west we have prairie, on the east ponds and bluffs. The soil varies from heavy to sandy loam, eight to fifteen inches in depth; subsoil from "heavy clay throughout; intermediate stages to sandy gravel." The rule is good sandy loam with fairly heavy subsoil, eminently suitable for mixed farming.

Owing to high land and timber forming windbreaks to the westward and north, this district is free from severe stormy winds, the land generally lying high, and rolling, is well drained.

In winter men employ themselves cutting timber rails and firewood, hauling hay from meadows to stables, teaming grain, hay and wood to market.

"With rare exceptions deep ploughing and summer fallowing properly attended to, secure good crops. With comparatively poor cultivation which is here, the rule rather than the exception, the average is twenty bushels wheat, thirty-five oats, thirty barley, one hundred and sixty potatoes. In seasons of sufficient rain fall, these returns may be doubled.

"This district is suitable for mixed farming. Farmers who have gone at all extensively into stock have invariably done well, whether in raising horses, cattle or sheep.

"This district has from its first settlement, in 1883, been specially noted for prime butter. Latterly the production has been larger, but the quality has not kept up, many rushing into careless making, because good and careful makers secured fair prices. The result has been overstocks of poor and medium butter.

"To remedy this a creamery was started last year at Broadview successfully as to the quality made and price received. This year the cream of 400 cows is promised to the creamery, and it is intended to run it the full season, the proprietor buying the cream at the farmers' houses, gathering and taking it to the creamery, manufacturing the butter and shipping it as a private enterprise."

In nearly every township there are vacant lands for homesteading, and land may be purchased at from \$2 and upwards.

For building everywhere prairie surface stones are found well suited for building houses, stables, milk-houses and the like.

There is abundance of wood for fencing. There is no limit to the supply of sand, gravel and lime where concrete houses can be made. Limestone is found and kilns are easily made.

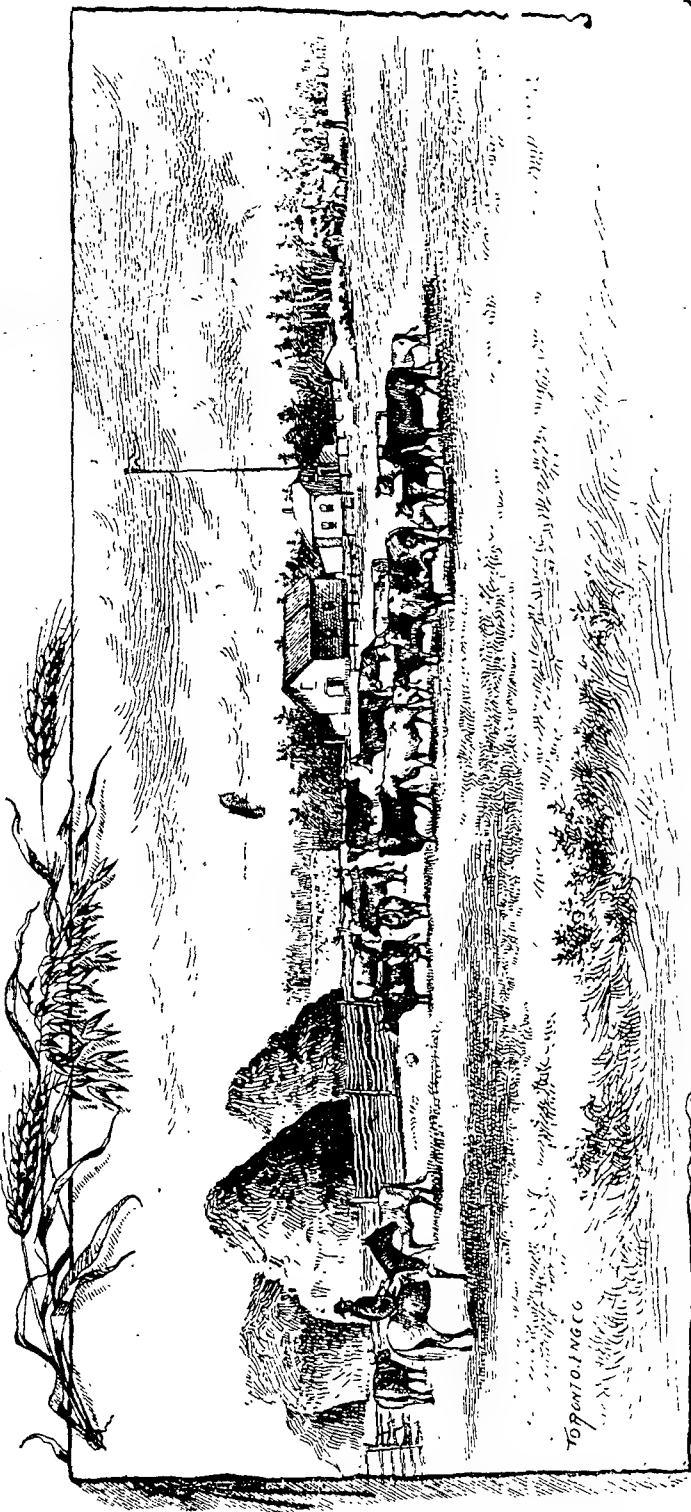
All possible advantages as to schools and religious services of all denominations are enjoyed.

Mr. Thorburn bears evidence to the excellence of the roads and bridges.

We need not say that all sorts of implements, seed grain, etc., can be easily obtained.

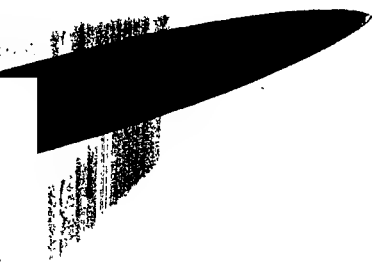
There is a weekly mail within easy distance.





MIXED FARMING.

TORONTO, 1880



## WOLSELEY DISTRICT.

Mr. B. P. Richardson represents this district in the North-West Legislative Assembly. We know it pretty well, and recognize the accuracy of his description:

"The area of the Wolseley District is about 24 by 50 miles, comprising Townships 15 to 22 inclusive in Ranges 7, 8, 9, 10 west of the 2nd Principal Meridian.

"The district is gently undulating, and is watered by the Pipestone and Qu'Appelle rivers. About one-third of the district is covered with timber of the following varieties, viz: white and black poplar, birch, willow, ash and soft maple.

"The soil is a rich black clay loam on the surface, with a rich clay subsoil containing deposits of vegetable matter and lime. Wheat, oats and barley are chiefly raised, together with cattle, horses, sheep and swine.

"Mixed farming has been the most profitable. Natural and artificial lakes are numerous, and several small creeks water the district."

The highest temperature in summer is 100°, and the lowest in winter 35° to 40° below zero, but it very seldom goes so low.

Spring opens about 15th March; seeding begins about 1st April, sometimes earlier.

Harvest begins about the 20th of August. Winter sets in about Christmas, but it is seldom necessary to shelter stock until January. The coldest weather is in February, and the winter breaks up in March.

Wheat is raised extensively; oats and barley are also raised to a large extent, and pease also are being raised with good success.

Root crops and all kinds of vegetables grow luxuriantly.

The average yield per acre of wheat is 20 bushels; oats, 30; pease, 25; but 40 bushels of wheat, 80 bushels of oats, and 40 bushels of barley is not uncommon.

Stock-raising has been very successful. Hay can be procured in sufficient quantities for stock, and owing to the many sheltered portions of the district horses do well out during the whole of the winter.

Bands of horses have wintered out in the neighbourhood of Wolseley, Greenfell and in the valleys of the Pipestone and Qu'Appelle, north and south of these places.

Sheep are raised in large numbers, and do well, paying as much as 55 per cent. profit. There are about 10,000 sheep now in the district. Cotswold, Southdown, Shropshire, Down, etc.

In Horses, the Clydsedale, and Shire horses are raised very successfully for draught—and the English thorough-bred blood horses, for speed and sale, for the carriage and saddle.

The sires used, are generally imported from England, or Eastern Canada, and are crossed with Canadian and native mares.

The climate, shelter, abundance of luxuriant grasses, plenty of pure water, and the cool nights make it a very desirable portion of the Territories for dairy farming.

A cheese factory is established in the Primitive Methodist Colony, north of the Qu'Appelle River, and on the line of the North-West Central Railway.

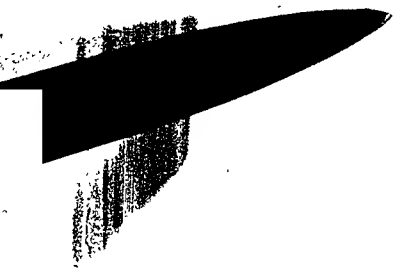
A cheese factory also has been in operation at Grenfell, on the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, for two years.

There is an unlimited market for cheese and butter in British Columbia and the Rocky Mountains, at good prices. The price obtained for cheese during 1889, was from 10 to 14 cents per pound, at the factories. Butter in 1889, from 20 to 25 cents, for creamery and choice dairy.

Plenty of wood is obtainable yet, at distances of one to six miles, and the supply is likely to be equal to the demand for fifteen or twenty years. In some parts of the district near the rivers, wood will be used for fuel for many years. Coal from British Columbia and Alberta, can be had here, at a reasonable cost, which is likely to be largely reduced when the mines to the south are opened, and competition increased.

Free grant lands can yet be had, at from twelve to fifteen miles from the railways, and a few homesteads perhaps nearer.





There is plenty of the very choicest land with and without wood, to be purchased, from \$2.50, up to \$10.00 per acre.

Where timber is near, many use logs for building, where good logs are distant, the settler either uses lumber, stone or concrete. There is sufficient stone and lime for building foundations, and in many places, for the erection of buildings.

The district is well supplied with water generally, many ravines have been dammed, thus creating large artificial lakes.

The Qu'Appelle River, and the Pipestone, and the Pheasant creeks in the north, supply a great deal of water. Generally water has been found at from 18 to 50 feet, while some wells are 80 feet. The water is good.

Grenfell, Wolseley and Summerry, on the Canadian Pacific Railway, are excellent markets for all kinds of farm produce; also Moffat at the south, in range ten, and Ellisboro, in Qu'Appelle Valley, and Pheasant Forks, afford good markets for everything the settler can raise. Grenfell and Wolseley, are even in Assiniboia, remarkable for the numbers and quality of their settlements, and the whole district will compare favourably with any other district in the North-West Territories for intelligence, thrift, energy, physical and moral soundness.

Upon the extension of the North-West Central, through the Primitive Methodist Colony, there will be better local markets there, but at present, good markets for the Colony are found at Wolseley, Fort Qu'Appelle and Grenfell.

Schools everywhere within easy distance.

Prairie chicken, rabbits, ducks, geese, wild turkeys, foxes, badgers and gophers, are plentiful.

Fish can be obtained in the rivers, the principal kinds being white-fish and pike.

Small fruits do remarkably well, both wild and cultivated. Apple trees are being raised in the more sheltered portions of the district, but the experiment has not been tried long enough to give fruit. Wild cherries, saskatoon-berries, strawberries, raspberries, black-currants and gooseberries, are abundant.

These fruits when cultivated—either from the wild or imported trees—do remarkably well.

Roads and bridges are good as a matter of course.

In our introductory remarks we said agricultural societies exist all over Assiniboia—In this District of Wolseley, there are three—Grenfell, Wolseley and Pheasant Forks. This last belongs to the

#### PRIMITIVE METHODIST COLONY

north of the Qu'Appelle river and on the projected line of the North-West Central Railway,—a noble tract of land consisting of township 20, ranges 8, 9 and 10 and townships 22 and 23, ranges 8 and 9, west of the 2nd principal meridian. Townships 21 and 22 are generally level, excepting the south-east township which embraces a portion of the Pheasant Hills, and which is somewhat rolling and fairly well wooded. Township 23 is considered rolling land, but is not so to any great extent. This township is better adapted to cattle raising, than grain growing. There is some excellent land, but portions of it are somewhat gravelly. In moist seasons there is an abundance of grass, sloughs of various sizes are to be found in every part of it.

Townships 21 and 22, ranges as above (which are the best settled) are equal to most parts of the North-West. Rich, black soil, reaching to a depth of 18 inches or 2 feet in some places produce abundant vegetation, and large crops of cereals are grown. Oats grow luxuriantly in both these townships; while wheat seems to be a surer crop on the hills generally than on those parts lying lower.

There are several creeks intersecting the colony—the Pheasant Creek, and the Pearl Creek, being the largest. There are no rivers here, but there are several lakes or ponds.

Mixed farming is the rule, and with slight necessary adaptation to locality, &c., it will be found to be the surest way to success.



Seeding generally starts about the middle of April, but in 1889, seeding was general in March.

Harvest-time is usually in August and September.

In winter the settlers work at logging, marketing grain, and building.

The crops raised here are wheat, oats, barley, turnips, potatoes and flax-seed in small quantities. In ordinary seasons, the average of the wheat crops will have been from 20 to 25 bushels per acre. Some of the roots grown have weighed 40 lbs. each. Mangel-wurzel beets, and carrots do well. Some fine specimens of vegetable marrows, citrons, &c., have been grown here, and ordinarily garden truck of all kinds grow luxuriantly; potatoes have yielded over 150 bushels to the acre, and of most excellent quality.

Oats seems to be the surest crop amongst cereals, and 80 bushels have been grown to the acre, the average being about 40 bushels per acre; barley is not much grown; pease have not been a general crop.

This portion of the Wolesley District upon the whole is best adapted for mixed farming. As a rule there is plenty of grass and hay to make stock raising profitable.

Horses, cattle and sheep of any good breed do well heré. Cattle are being improved by the use of thorough-bred Durham bulls.

The northern portions of this district are best adapted for dairying. A cheese factory is in course of erection, and will be in use this summer.

The grass on the Pheasant Hills is in the highest degree nutritious, but all parts produce splendid feed.

"The water supply as a whole is good, and free from alkali. A good general store is kept at Pheasant Forks, and we thus have a home market for dairy produce, but a distance of thirty miles has, at present, to be travelled to reach a market for grain. A considerable amount of butter and eggs have been sent to various points west.

There is a plentiful supply of wood for fuel.

"There are several free homesteads throughout this district, yet to be had. As a rule, land cannot be bought under \$2 per acre.

"Up to the present time, settlers have been able to obtain all the wood for building purposes that has been required; but the supply is now somewhat limited. In some places a considerable amount of stone might be obtained.

"Generally there is a plentiful supply of water. The average depth of wells will not be more than 30 feet, and the water is as a rule good.

Wolesely, Indian Head, Fort Qu'Appelle and Qu'Appelle Station, have been the main markets for this neighbourhood. The nearest is thirty miles distant.

MARKET PRICES:—Wheat, 70 cents; oats, 50 cents; potatoes, 75 cents per bushel; butter, 14 cents per lb., and eggs, 15 cents per dozen.

The Great North-West Central Railway is expected to run through this neighbourhood by next fall, which will be a great advantage to both old and new settlers.

There are three organized school districts in this neighbourhood.

Religious services are held at six different points.

Game plentiful. No fish. Plenty of prairie chickens, &c. There are a few prairie wolves, foxes, badgers and skunks.

Raspberries, strawberries, currants and gooseberries grow here, and with cultivation do well. Juneberries, strawberries and choke-cherries grow in several parts.

The rose, the crocus, the cowslip, &c., grow in luxuriant beauty.

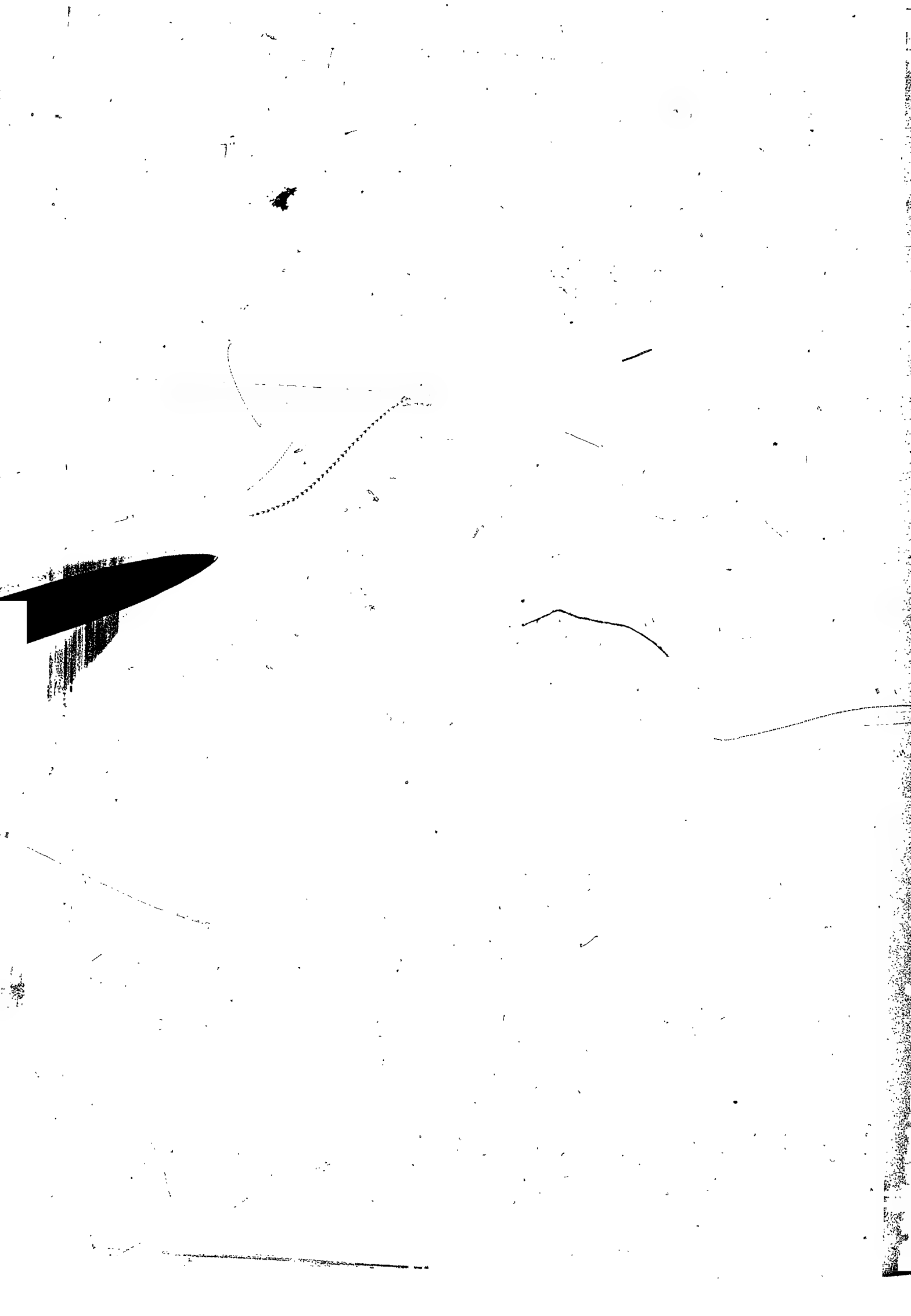
We have two mails per week, on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

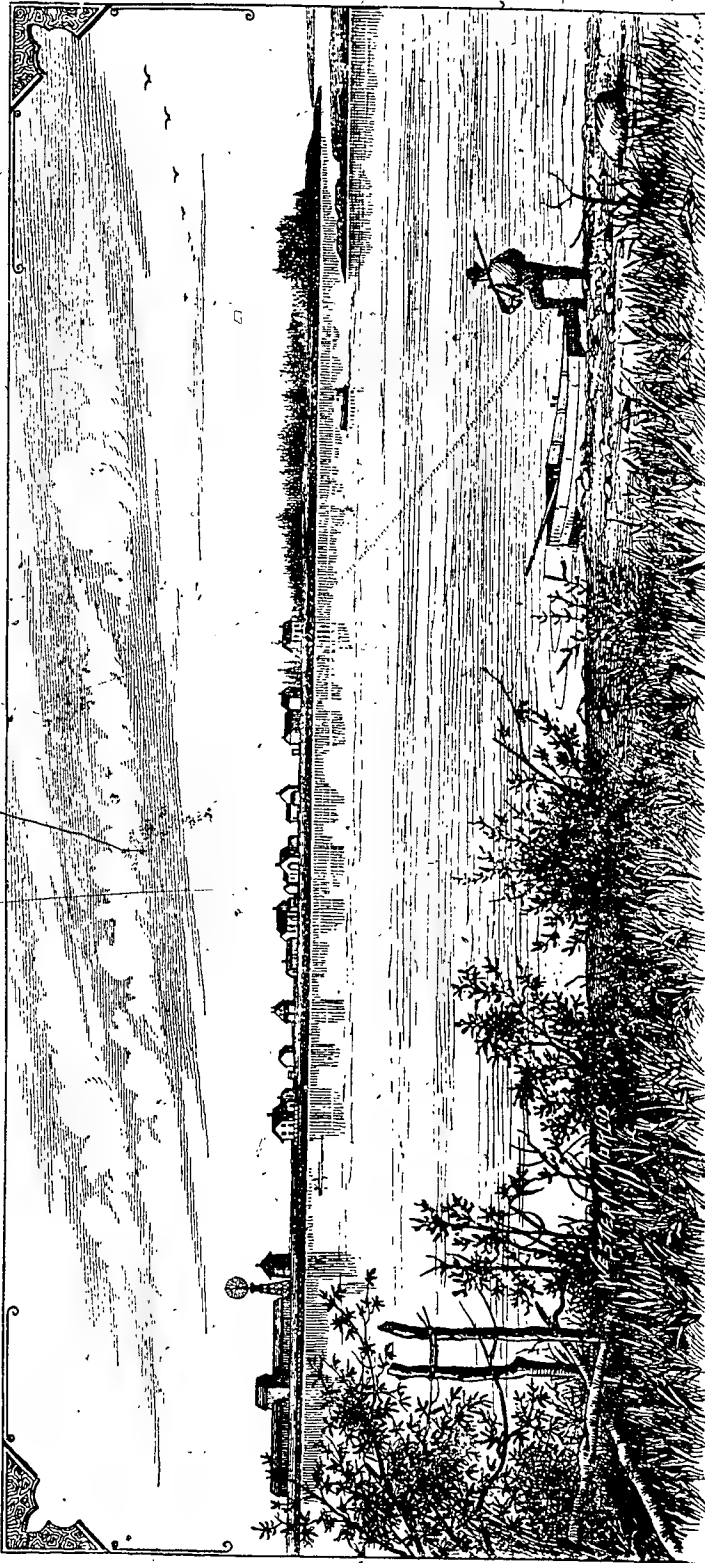
No telegraph yet, but when the G. N. W. Central reaches here the telegraph service will accompany it.

North of the Methodist Colony is an area of eight miles square, partly a bluff country, and partly open prairie; clay subsoil. The Pheasant Creek runs through it.

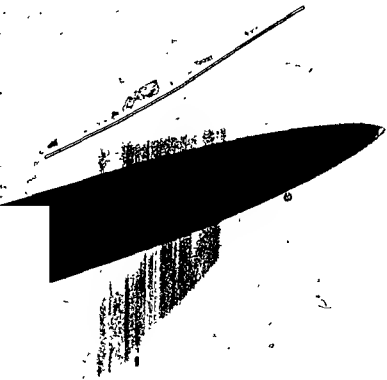
There are many excellent springs of waters; it is eminently suitable for mixed farming.

All that has been said about climate, crop, etc., applies to this portion of the country.





BY THE LAKE.



It is as good as any other part of the North-West for roots, perhaps better, seeing that there they have raised 300 bushels of potatoes to the acre. As a matter of course it is good for all kinds of stock.

Wood for fuel is plentiful. The homestead land is, as a rule, taken up, but there are syndicate lands to be bought at a moderate price.

They have stone and logs for building. The small fruits flourish. There are few more attractive parts of the North-West than this.

#### WALLACE.

Still in the north, we next deal with the Electoral District of Wallace, better known as Yorkton, represented in our Local Legislature by Mr. Joel Reaman. It covers an area of about 5,000 square miles; it is composed of gently undulating prairie, covered with abundance of rich and luxurious grasses, interspersed with streams, sloughs and lakes. The bluffs relieve the monotony, and add beauty to the scene, and are useful as well as ornamental, supplying the pioneer with fuel, building material and fencing. The lands of this district may be classed under four heads—1st, grain-growing; 2nd, grazing and dairying; 3rd, mixed farming; 4th, timber and wood lands. The whole district is adapted to grain-growing; the soil is for the most part a clay loam, with clay subsoil; occasionally, however, there is to be found soil of a sandy loam with clay subsoil. The Assiniboine river is navigable and could be utilized for manufacturing purposes. The same is true of the White Sand Lakes. Ponds and sloughs are numerous. Climate delightful; blizzards unknown; snow as a rule falls to a depth of from six to eight inches. Winter begins in last week of December and lasts to the end of March. Spring opens latter part of March or 1st of April, and seeding commences first week in April. As a rule it rains in June. Autumn is pleasant, with occasional showers and frost. "The climate," says Mr. Reaman, "though slightly colder in winter and warmer in summer, is no more severe on the average, than that of Ontario or Northern Michigan or Wisconsin.

"The crops grown are:—Wheat, oats, barley, flax, pease and corn; these are the only grains which have been grown here as yet; although I am of the opinion that all the other cereals could be grown, from the fact that corn has been successfully grown and ripened.

"Roots and vegetables are very prolific, and yield abundantly; especially potatoes and turnips. Garden vegetables—as onions, parsnips, beets, tomatoes, cucumber, celery, carrots, cabbage, cauliflower, and in fact any vegetable grown in Ontario can be grown here, and will yield better returns for the same labour. Small-fruits also do well.

"The average yield per acre is—

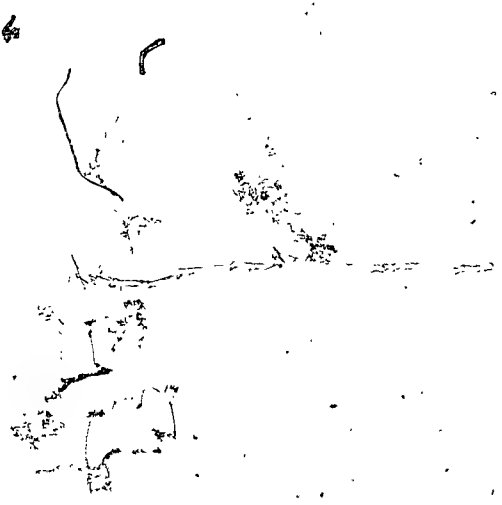
	Bushels.
Wheat.....	30
Oats.....	60
Barley.....	35
Potatoes.....	500
Turnips.....	800

Sugar beets also do well, and yield about 35 tons to the acre in this district.

"For stock-raising the whole of this district is admirably suited, but more particularly so in the regions along the White Sand River, and in the Devil's Lake country, where there is an abundance of grasses of a very superior quality, and where the cattle and stock of all kinds winter out all winter, and come out in splendid condition in the spring. Another point in favour of this as a stock country is that there is an abundance of good water.

"The breeds of cattle that pay best, are either good grades of the large or beef classes of cattle, or those of the small breeds, best adapted for dairying. I have seen two-year-old steers turned out from the ranches of this district weighing 700 to 900 lbs. dressed.





"Horses also do well, as also sheep; in fact any kind of stock pay well, as they cost but very little, as hay can be bought at \$1 per ton, and has never been higher than \$2 per ton in this district.

"The most suitable part of this district for dairying, is that part surrounding Yorkton; and from this fact a company is being formed with a capital stock of \$3,000 with which to carry on a creamery on the most modern and improved plan. The building is to be of stone and fitted with centrifugal cream separators, and operations will commence early next spring, and the outlook for this industry is very promising, as this district is second to none in the world as a dairying district. Yorkton butter will be anxiously looked for by those wishing a first class article.

"The facilities are:—Abundance of native hay, the great crop of roots which can be grown, the purity of water and cool nights.

"The markets are:—1st. Home consumption, moderate. 2nd. British Columbia, good. 3rd. British Columbia, fair.

"Railway facilities for shipping, Manitoba and North-West Railway.

"The fuel supply here is good, consisting entirely of wood, which is close by and within easy reach of all, and can be had at the usual government fee.

"But this district will eventually be supplied with coal from Prince Albert, which lies about 200 miles to the north-west, and, on the completion of the Manitoba and North-West Railway, will, no doubt, be laid down at Yorkton and neighbouring stations at reasonable rates.

"There is abundance of land in this district both for sale and to homestead, suitable for stock-raising, grain-growing or mixed farming, close to churches, schools, post office, &c. Land may be purchased at from \$2 to \$20 per acre.

"There is abundance of building material in this district, not only of logs but of stone. Lime is also burned here. Sand is also found, and in the north of the district we have a saw mill which supplies plenty of spruce lumber.

"Good water may be had at from 16 to 30 feet. In some localities natural springs exist, one of which may be seen at Yorkton.

"The local markets are good for a new place, and farm produce sells quite readily at fair prices.

Wheat.....	50c. to 60c. per bush.
Oats.....	30 " 40 "
Potatoes.....	40 " 50 "
Butter.....	15 " 20c. per lb.
Eggs.....	10 " 20c. per doz.

"Schools are within easy reach of all, and the advantages here are equal to those of Ontario.

"This district is supplied by resident ministers of Presbyterian and Methodist denominations, and a visiting clergyman of the Roman Catholic Church.

"Small game and water fowl are plentiful. Fish in Assiniboia River and Devil's Lake. Bear, deer, wolf, fox, beaver, mink, muskrat, badger and otter. Geese, duck, Sand Hill crane, prairie chicken, plover, grouse, snipe, &c.

"Small fruit do well, such as currants, &c. Native fruits are Saskatchewan berries, currants, raspberries, strawberries and gooseberries.

"Native flowers are wild pea, clover, rose, &c.

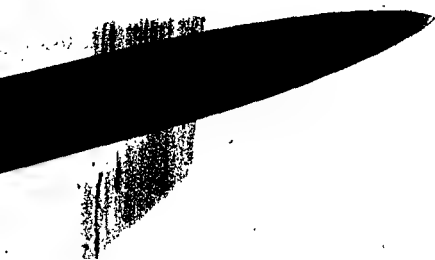
"This district is very new, but roads and bridges are being pushed forward as rapidly as possible.

"No difficulty in procuring implements for agricultural purposes, seed grain, &c., as the leading Canadian and American companies are represented.

"Postal facilities are, comparatively speaking, good. The telegraph line is as yet only to Saltcoats, but it will be extended to Yorkton this summer."

#### KINBRAE.

At the extreme south of this, the district around Kinbrae, the land is rolling prairie, with bluffs of small and medium-sized timber, and is well adapted for mixed farming. The quality of the land is good—loam, with clay sub-soil. Big Cut-Arm



Creek, which has at all times plenty of water, is well adapted for mills. There are many lakes and sloughs. On all the other heads the remarks made as to the district generally apply here. There is a plentiful supply of poplar wood for fuel. There are in the southern portion of the district a number of homesteads not yet taken up, well suited for mixed farming.

The Manitoba and North-Western Railway passes through the district at this point, and the North-West Central is likely to pass through to the south side of the Manitoba and North-Western Railway. This portion of the district is well supplied with water. Water is also obtained with certainty by well-digging at an average depth of 30 feet.

There is a good market at Landenburg—wheat, 75c.; oats, 50c.; potatoes, 75c.; butter, 12½c.

There are a number of first-class schools, and several more will be built this season.

There is an abundant supply of all kinds of game in this southern part of the district, except fish:—Geese, ducks, plover, snipe, prairie chicken, partridge, &c.; bears, wolves, wolverine, foxes, badgers, skunks, mink, and other furbearing animals.

#### NORTH QU'APPELLE.

W. SUTHERLAND, M.L.A.

Although the name Qu'Appelle is now applied to a large district and politically covers two constituencies, originally it belonged exclusively to Fort Qu'Appelle and its immediate neighbourhood.

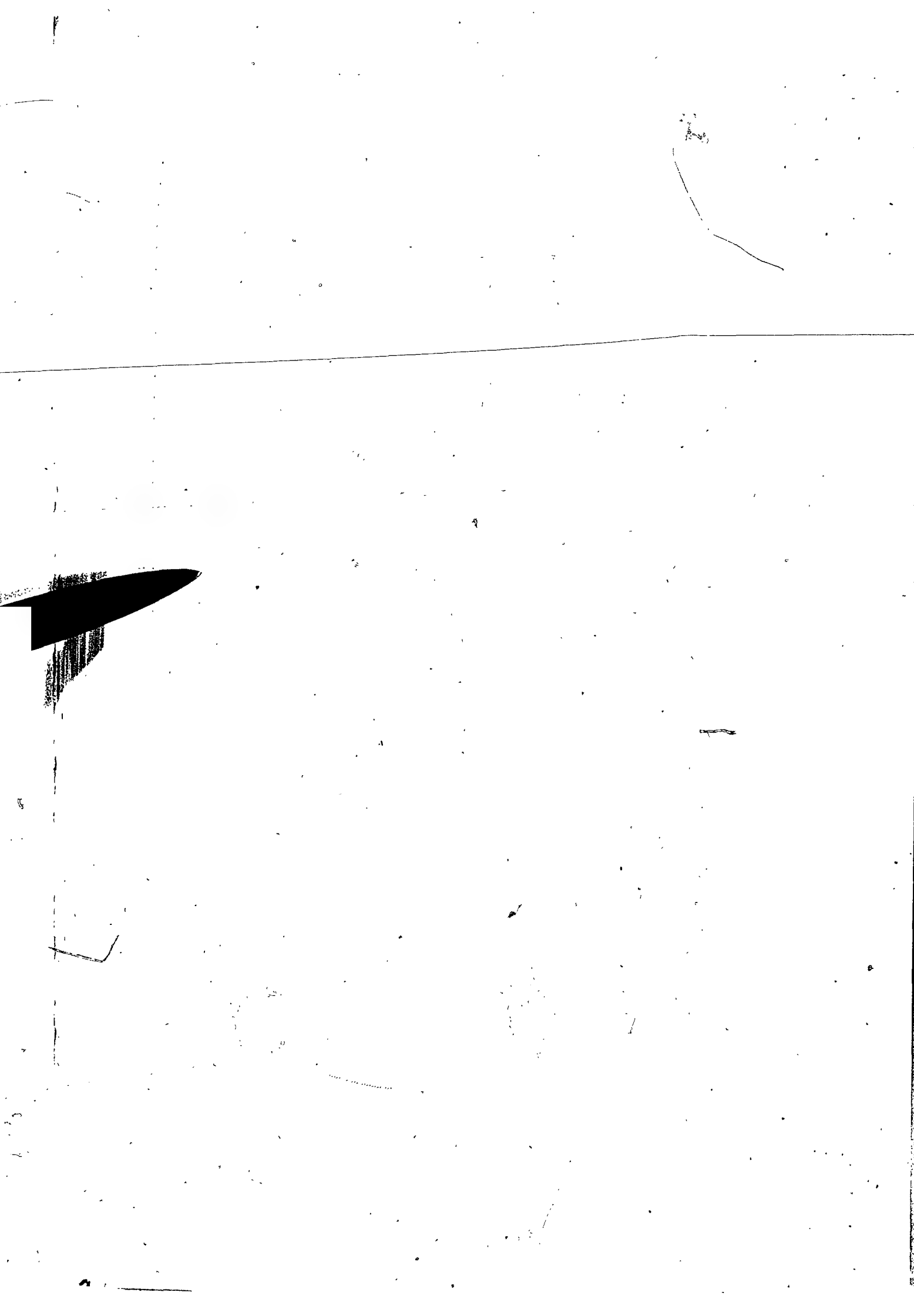
Qu'Appelle—"Who calls?"—a name suggested by an echo to the early voyageurs.

Fort Qu'Appelle and its vicinity is one of the most beautiful portions of this western land. North and south hills rise from two to three hundred feet, with strips of timber at regularly recurring intervals. The river connects a system of lakes, the favourite haunts of water-fowl. Whitefish and other varieties abound in these waters. Near the town grouse and partridge may be shot.

The electoral district of North Qu'Appelle extends thirty six miles from east to west, embracing ranges 11 to 16 west of the 2nd Principal Meridian, Dominion Lands Survey. From north to south it extends ninety miles, embracing townships 20 to 34. The land is rolling prairie, dotted with poplar bluffs, which give it a park-like appearance. These bluffs serve as protection during winter, and yield a supply of logs for building, rails for fencing, and an abundance of fuel for domestic and manufacturing purposes. The soil generally, throughout the district, is of first class quality—a black loam with a subsoil of clay. In some localities it is lighter than in others, and in such places crops mature earlier than in neighbourhoods of the heavier quality. The principal river is the Qu'Appelle, which flows through the district from west to east, linking together a chain of beautiful lakes.

Outdoor employment in winter is found in hauling grain to market, getting out fencing and cordwood, logs, &c., from the woods, hauling and selling hay. During the winter months there is a limited amount of freighting. Outside work can be carried on throughout the entire winter, with the exception of a very few days.

Says Mr. W. Sutherland, M.L.A.: "For growing spring wheat it would be hard indeed to surpass this district. The varieties of wheat raised here are almost entirely the Red and White Fyfe, No. 1 hard, which have already made a name in the markets of the world for their superior qualities—a thin skinned, bright, flinty grain, full of gluten, unexcelled in any country. These so desirable properties are brought forth by two great factors, our soil and our climate. The soil contains, to a large degree, all the necessary constituents of the wheat plant, being exceedingly rich in lime, potash, nitrogen and phosphoric acid, all of which is largely helped by the action of the frost in winter rendering the land more friable. When, to these factors, the great dryness of the atmosphere, and never failing sunshine are added



they combine to make the North-West the grain producer of the future. A country that can produce grain to such perfection can be made to grow almost anything. These remarks apply with equal force to other grains, oats and barley (both white and black), which are grown extensively here, not forgetting peas and flax seed, which do equally well. The Qu'Appelle District is by far the earliest in the North-West, and about a fortnight earlier than Manitoba—a fact well worthy of attention—and the actual yields and averages made in it will speak volumes for the capabilities of the country.

✓ "Wheat produces 25 bushels to the acre without any trouble. There are some enormous yields, such as 1,000 bushels on twenty acres, the quality being the finest hard milling wheat produced in the world. The sample cannot be surpassed by any wheat-producing district. The yield, however, as in any other country depends so entirely on the favourableness of the season that an average is difficult to strike. Oats yield 40 bushels to the acre, and when given the same attention as wheat are a sure and prolific crop. Barley produces 30 bushels to the acre; it is a sure crop, and very large yields reward any effort at cultivation. Peas are grown successfully, and the yield is large, requiring little attention. Flax is a safe and large crop. Potatoes yield from 200 to 500 bushels to the acre; they are an unfailing crop and are very prolific with even little attention. Turnips, mangolds, beets, and in fact all root crops are sure and plentiful. Indian corn, tomatoes and other vegetables ripen well and give good results. All garden produce repays attention given it and attain large proportions. The average yield of a district is often lowered by the amount of land under hap-hazard cultivation, and the number of farmers who sow large acreages on the chance of a favourable season and a big yield do not take the necessary trouble to ensure success.

Wild fruits, including strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, Saskatoon berries, red and black cherries, black currants and cranberries are abundant. Hazel nuts and wild hops of excellent quality also grow in profusion.

#### LIVE STOCK.

It is the consensus of opinion among those who know whereof they speak that this district is exceptionally well suited to the breeding and rearing of all sorts of stock. Cattle, horses and sheep thrive and get fat with astonishing rapidity on the common pasturage provided by the open prairie. The prairie grasses contain a large percentage of saccharine matter, and are greatly relished by cattle. Imported stock in a short time become acclimatized and hardy. The natural increase in all kinds of stock compares favourably with other countries, and in sheep it exceeds that of Ontario. The absence of brushwood is very favourable to wool. The same may be said respecting the yield of wool as has been pointed out regarding natural increase. The winters do not appear to appreciably affect stock in general in this district; they commonly graze out up to Christmas. The dryness of the climate is well suited to the care of sheep. Foot rot, mouth disease, and flukes in sheep, also foot and mouth disease in cattle are unknown. So forward are stock in general in these parts, that a two-year-old steer will equal in size and weight a three-year old in England.

"For an ordinary winter, provision need not be made to feed stock over two and one-half months. Pigs and poultry also do well in this climate. With ordinary turf they can be abundantly protected during the winter. The wild grasses of the sloughs and low-lying land of the prairie, when mown, make a first-class upland hay. The yield throughout the district is fairly sufficient for the requirements of the settlers, even where they have gone in largely for stock.

"The Touchwood Hills district, and north of it, is specially adapted for raising stock. The settlers in that locality make that their principal occupation. The district is equally well suited for cattle and horses. At present there are not many sheep here. Those engaged in raising stock have been very successful, and find a ready market for all they have for sale in supplying government contracts, and in the southern portion of the district.



"The horses raised are from native mares and horses imported from Eastern Canada. The cattle are grade Durham, with several pedigree balls.

## DAIRYING.

"The whole district is well suited for dairy farming. The highly nutritious natural grasses afford all the requisite fodder for stock. Timothy and clover can be grown successfully, but at present are not grown to any extent, the natural grasses proving amply sufficient. Pure water, entirely free from alkali, is abundant. Generally speaking the nights are cool. A creamery was erected at Fort Qu'Appelle early in 1890 by a joint stock company composed of citizens of that town. Cream was taken during last season from about 200 cows, and 300 are promised for next season. The cream is gathered three times a week, the largest haul being 12 miles. The patrons are paid in cash equivalent to 15 cents a pound of butter. The whole of last season's make was sold at 22 cents a pound at Qu'Appelle for shipment to British Columbia. The company is satisfied with its year's work, and will increase its operations as rapidly as the development of the district will permit.

## FUEL, LANDS, WATER, ETC.

"The district contains poplar timber quite sufficient for all fuel purposes. A little Pennsylvania anthracite coal is used and some bituminous coal from the Lethbridge colliery in Alberta, but wood is so plentiful and so much cheaper than coal that it is the principal fuel. There are abundant supplies of wood and stone for building purposes, also good limestone for making lime.

"There is a considerable amount of land open for free homesteading, and large quantities for sale by the Land Companies at from \$1 an acre upwards, according to its proximity to settlements.

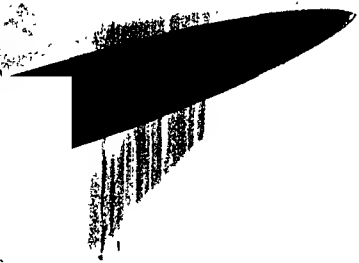
"The farmers ordinarily get their supply of water for stock and domestic use from the small streams, lakes, lakelets and sloughs distributed throughout the district. These sources of supply are augmented by wells sunk at depths varying from six to fifty feet; also by dams across coulees and springs. The supply is abundant. The quality of the water is pure, and free from alkali. The sloughs are generally surrounded by willows and poplars.

"Fort Qu'Appelle stands to its surrounding district in the relation of a county town to a county. The townsite of the town of Fort Qu'Appelle is situated on a peninsula formed by two of the Fishing Lakes. These lakes—five in number—are connected by the Qu'Appelle River, the latter emptying into the Assiniboine, in Manitoba. For beauty of location, suitability as a health and pleasure resort, Fort Qu'Appelle is far and favorably known. It is, however, from a business standpoint that it is proposed to speak of it at present. Laid out as a townsite in 1882, with the development of the district, it has rapidly grown, and is now a place of importance with many and varied industries. It is the seat of the first rural municipality erected in the Territories—the Municipality of Qu'Appelle. It is also the centre of the school district. Here is held the annual exhibition of the Qu'Appelle agricultural society."

All kinds of business and professional enterprise are represented,—mill, bank, stores, telegraph, hotels, newspaper, boat-builders, lawyers and doctors, builders and bakers; you can get a spring for your watch at the watchmaker's and a pill at the drug store; you can insure your life or borrow money, have children educated, on Sunday attend any one of three churches and, on week nights, hear a lecture at the town hall. The *Vidette* is published here.

As an indication of the business of an agricultural district, it may be stated that one blacksmith, at Fort Qu'Appelle, last year turned out some forty odd vehicles, shod 1,500 horses, and did general work to the extent of about \$1,400. The Fort, from its geographical position, has been, and is still, a very important point in the fur trade. For the last four years the total volume of trade here may be computed at an average of \$600,000 a year. Sports, such as boating, shooting, fishing, cricket and tennis have their respective clubs. There is also a good mile track near the town.





Full advantage of the educational system has been taken by the settlers in this locality.

#### SPORT.

"The Fishing Lakes, situated in the centre of the Qu'Appelle district, consist of a chain of six lakes through which runs the Qu'Appelle River. Beginning at the extreme west and going east, they are called respectively Muskago, Wyo-wa-sung, Pasqua, Qu'Appelle, Mission and Katepwa Lakes. Their extreme length is about twenty miles, with a width of one and a-quarter miles; and the average depth of the four last mentioned lakes is about fifty feet. The shores, with the exception of those of Muskago and Wyo-wa-sung, are made up of clean stone, gravel and sand. The water is clear, bright and sweet, and at all seasons of the year fit for culinary purposes. Almost anywhere around the shores can be found strong running streams of cold, sweet water, pouring from the base of the hills which surround the lakes. All these lakes are well stocked with fish, of which a large amount are taken each year. The varieties of commercial value are two species of whitefish, one of which is the world renowned whitefish of the great lakes, but is of a more delicate flavour; pike, local name jackfish; pickerel and large yellow perch. Parties who fish for the market or for the purpose of trading, are required to take out a license, but any other person can fish with a net or otherwise for his own use without interference from any person, excepting during close season, when all nets are required to be taken up. A small gill net of 40 feet in length, if set twice a week, will supply any ordinary family with sufficient large, delicious whitefish.

"Late in the autumn immense numbers of duck frequent the Fishing Lakes, particularly Muskago and Wyo-wa-sung, which are both shallow, the former being a seedy, marshy place, where, from the beginning of the shooting season until it freezes up, the finest shooting can be had, both flight and decoy, from the different points, and jumping from boats and canoes. The kinds of duck found in the greatest numbers are mallards—blue and green winged teal, widgeon, pintail, canvas-backs, redheads, luebills, golden eyes, and many other varieties. All of these breed in the sloughs and lakes of the district. Slough shooting though considered rather a tame sport, affords a never failing supply of duck for the settlers' tables. Wild geese resort to the stubble fields in the autumn, and can be easily killed in their passage from there to the lakes morning and evening.

"The prairie chicken shooting of this district has been celebrated for years. The chicken, or pinnated grouse. The so-called partridge is a strong flyer, and heavily feathered, and requires a good shot and a strong-shooting gun to stop him in his flight. They are in such numbers, however, that it requires but little to keep the larder well supplied. Although the ruffed grouse is not so plentiful as the prairie chicken, excellent sport can be had with it at times in the coulees or ravines along the Qu'Appelle valley. The snipe grounds are too isolated to make good sport, but innumerable varieties of plover migrate along the river and can be literally mowed down. The rabbit, or hare, has been a staple article of food with the whites and Indians. What with the ducks in the sloughs and lakes, the prairie chickens on the plains, the partridge in the coulees, the wild geese in the stubble fields, the plover upon the shores of the lakes, or upon the plowed field, and the fish that swarm in its lakes, the incoming settler to the Qu'Appelle valley need never want for good nourishing fresh fish and game. Deer are plentiful in the northern part of the district and there are some bears."

#### SOUTH QU'APPELLE.

G. S. DAVIDSON, M. L. A.

The capital of the South Qu'Appelle District is "Qu'Appelle" as distinguished from Fort Qu'Appelle. This is a pretty town and in summer the surrounding trees make it picturesque. There are fine stores; well built churches; a private bank and two first class hotels; livery stables, &c. It is the seat of the Bishop of Qu'Appelle, and here is St. John's College over which he presides. Here is published the *Progress*.

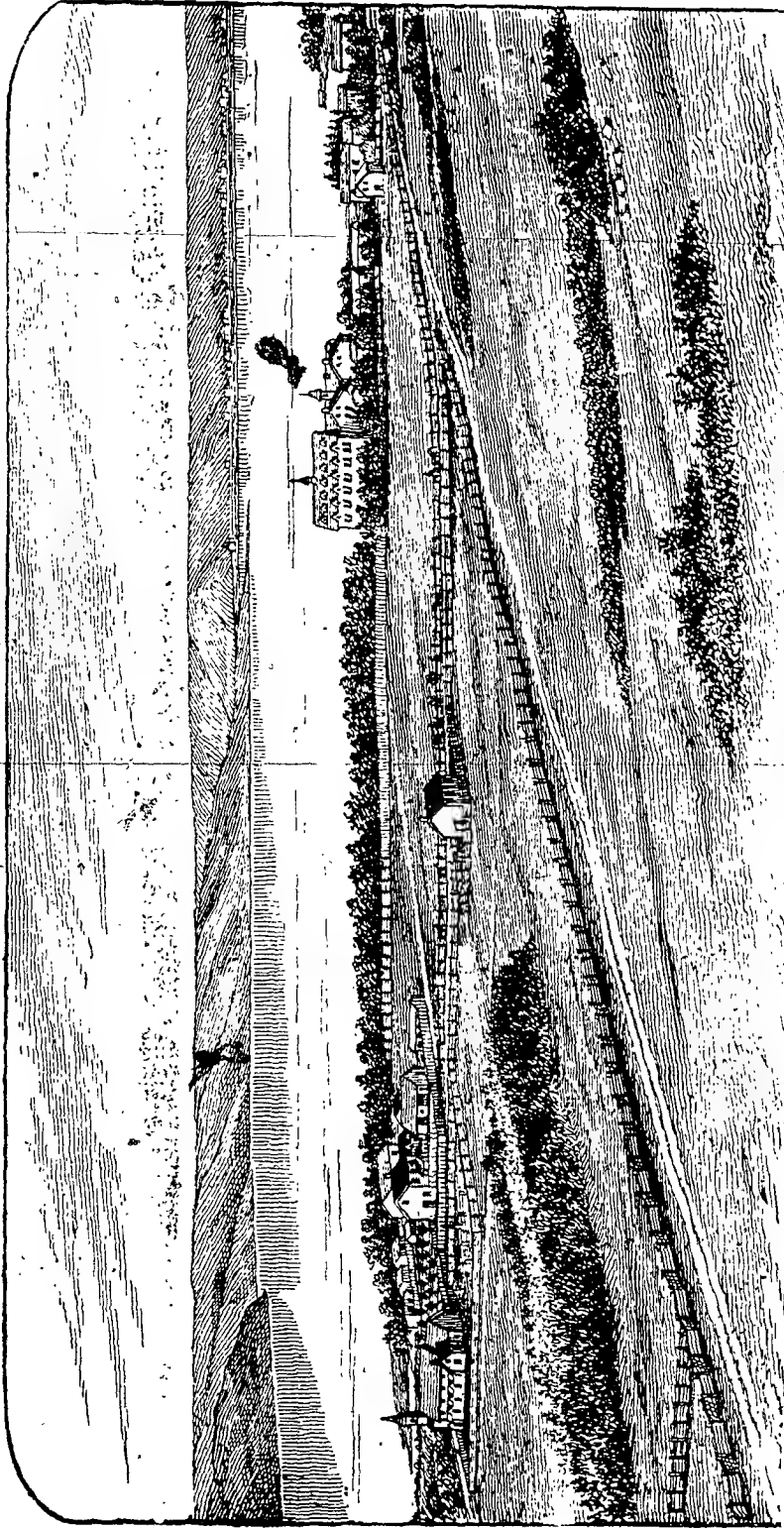


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FORT QU'APPELLE.



"The electoral district of South Qu'Appelle is immediately south of the North Qu'Appelle district, being the same distance from east to west as the latter, and occupying the whole of the country between the latter and the international boundary. It embraces ranges 11 to 16 west of the 2nd Principal Meridian, a distance of 36 miles from east to west, and takes in townships 1 to 19, from south to north, a distance of 114 miles. The principal portion of the district is rolling prairie, with beautiful patches of bluff and scrub timber. The whole district is well adapted to mixed farming, which is undoubtedly the most profitable. Wheat, oats and barley all give good returns. The land is heavy loam with a fine proportion of rich black soil, the subsoil being clay; but in some of the high lying lands is gravelly. There is very little alkali in the district. The country round the town of Qu'Appelle is bosky and picturesque, and is, indeed, well wooded. There is a continual string of bluffs along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway through almost the whole width of the district, more particularly on the south side, where in places they extend for four miles. The Souris River rises in the southern portion of the district. There are also several smaller streams, including Long, Wascana, Moose Mountain, Squirrel and Fox Creeks. Sloughs are plentiful throughout the whole district. The bluffs which are about in several portions of this district are a great protection from the cold in winter. There is a breeze during the day through the whole of the summer, and the nights are always cool and pleasant. Spring opens and seeding commences from the beginning to end of April, varying each season. Oats and barley may be sown up to the end of May, with every prospect of reaping a good crop. Haying commences the first week in July, and harvest commences in the middle of August and continues till the latter end of September. Winter generally sets in from the end of October to the middle of November and breaks up early in March. During the winter the settlers employ themselves in hauling wood, bringing in hay and grain to market, and in getting out fence rails and firewood for use in the coming months of the year.

"Wheat, oats and barley all do well here. Field peas were tried last season and did splendidly. Roots and vegetables of all sorts do remarkably well, and cabbages, cauliflowers, carrots and onions grow to an enormous size. In fact, the district is as good as can be imagined for growing any vegetables for domestic use. The average yield of wheat in favourable years may be put at 35 bushels to the acre; oats, 45 to 55 bushels to the acre, and barley, 30 bushels to the acre. Potatoes vary according to season up to 200 bushels per acre.

"This district is not adapted for ranching, owing to the absence of lakes and springs; but stock-raising such as is carried on in mixed farming is very successful, grass and hay being abundant, and of a rich and flesh-making quality. Horses of every description do well, and thrive in the winter without being put up, some being turned out all winter as they scrape for fodder under the snow. One case was recently brought to notice of a mare which was out all the winter and came back in the spring looking all the better for it, and with a foal at her side. Durhams, Herefords, Holsteins, Polled Angus and Highland cattle have been imported into this district and are doing well. South Down sheep do well here and are very prolific.

"The whole of this district is well adapted for dairy farming. The pasture is luxuriant and hay plentiful. Water is also scattered over the district, so that stock have not to roam far to drink. A good many of the ravines have been dammed lately, and in the spring these dams fill up. A steampower creamery, worked on the cream gathering system, having a capacity for milk from 600 cows, is worked each summer. At present only 300 cows are available to supply milk to it. Nearly the whole of the output of butter is shipped west along the Canadian Pacific Railway, some of it going to British Columbia. The proprietor of the creamery sends every other day to the farmers supplying cream and collects it. He also delivers their mail to them, thus saving them a trip to town.

"There is plenty of wood for fuel and domestic purposes within easy reach of settlers. The average price is \$2.25 per cord. Permits can be obtained to cut wood by those who prefer to cut and draw for themselves. The coal used here is brought in over the Canadian Pacific Railway, and is hard anthracite from Pennsylvania, and



soft bituminous from Lethbridge colliery, Alberta. The wood for fuel may be described as white poplar, black poplar, ash-leaved maple.

"In this municipality there are 107,000 acres of free grant land, or 645 farms of 160 acres each. The main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway runs from east to west through the centre of the municipality. Qu'Appelle station is in the centre of the townsite. There are also stations at Sintaluta, Indian Head and McLean, so that produce can be easily shipped east or west. Other than government land varies in price from \$4 to \$8 per acre, according to its nearness to town.

"There is a lumber merchant in the town of Qu'Appelle, who always has a general stock of lumber on hand which he sells at market price. In several parts of the district there is plenty of stone for building. There is a brick-yard a few miles west, whence brick can be brought at a reasonable rate. On some sections of land there are plenty of fence rails, whilst in other places there is some difficulty in obtaining them. There is a fairly good supply of water for stock and domestic purposes. Every farm has one or two wells in addition to the sloughs. The digging of wells is, as a rule, attended with success. In some places both hard and soft water are found—the former is impregnated with sulphur and iron; and the sloughs, as well as some of the wells, contain a little alkali. The average depth at which water can be obtained is 25 feet. There are excellent markets for farm produce of all kinds at the various railway stations, especially at Indian Head and Qu'Appelle."

In regard to education, this district has as good advantages as any district in the Territories. We have already referred to the Anglican college, about two miles from Qu'Appelle. Attached to it is a school for boarders or day pupils (boys), where a classical and liberal education, preparatory to university life, is given. The fees are very moderate. This school is available for the sons of settlers who are desirous of obtaining a higher education. The school is under the charge of the Rev. W. W. Nicolls, and a matron superintends the household department. There is also an agricultural college where young men from England and elsewhere are received, and obtain instructions in practical farming on the college farm, which covers an area of 640 acres. All is under the guidance of the Bishop of Qu'Appelle.

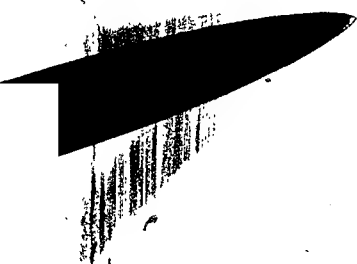
"The town of Qu'Appelle is well supplied with churches, the four principal denominations having edifices, and missionaries from each go throughout the district to hold services.

"Game is plentiful, and is brought into town by sportsmen for their friends and by others for market. White fish and jack fish are brought into market from the Qu'Appelle lakes. Deer are occasionally to be shot round here, and rabbits and hares are at times very numerous. Badgers and skunks, too, are often seen, as well as foxes and coyotes. Wild geese, waveys, sand-hill cranes, ducks, prairie chicken, partridge, plover and snipe are to be found throughout the district.

"Fruit culture has not yet been tried to any great extent. A few farmers, however, have been successful in raising black, red and white currants, gooseberries, strawberries and raspberries. The soil is, without doubt, well adapted to fruit culture. Wild raspberries, strawberries, currants, saskatoons and cherries abound. During the spring and early summer the whole prairie is a perfect flower garden. When the pasque flower, which appears as soon as the snow disappears, has flowered for a short time, it is succeeded by violets, after which every imaginable wild flower—from the humble daisy to the pretentious tiger lily, not forgetting orchids, hare bells, anemonies, trailing honey suckle, the whitethorn-bush and the grey bush willow, to which we owe the sweetest scent of all—are to be found everywhere.

"There is nothing left to be desired in the matter of roads, bridges and trails; the easy purchase of implements, seed grain, cattle, etc. There is a postal delivery here six days a week from each direction, east and west. A mail leaves Qu'Appelle station daily for Fort Qu'Appelle, and one a week for places further north. There are several other post offices in the district. The Qu'Appelle post office is also a money order office. Besides the C. P. R. telegraph, the head office of the Government telegraph service is at Qu'Appelle, and its line runs from here to Battleford, Prince Albert, Edmonton and Victoria, with numerous intermediate stations, so that we are in communication with the whole world."

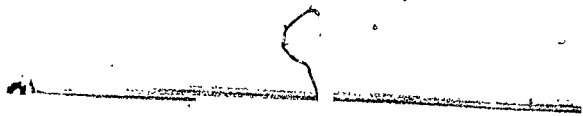
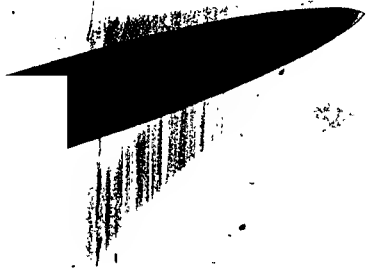




## REGINA.

Regina, the capital of the Territories, is situated in a central position on the banks of the Wascana, and her progress, especially within the last two years, has been substantial and striking. South and west of the town flows the Wascana. Mr. Duncan McIntyre and Mr. Angus, after visiting Egypt, visited the great fruitful Regina plain and declared the soil of the Regina basin to be of the same character as the soil produced by the overflowing of the Nile. Beyond the Wascana, to the west, are the headquarters of the Mounted Police, where there are usually more than 200 of this force. Here there is a fine barracks and a magnificent riding school for practice in the winter. Regina has two newspapers: the *Standard* (conservative), came into existence something like a year ago, the other, the *Leader*, is almost coeval with the town, the first number having appeared on the 1st of March, 1883. The *Leader* at once took a leading position among the newspapers of the Dominion which it has held ever since. It has always aimed at expressing North-West opinion and is specially devoted to the interests of the farmers. It is conservative qualified by this that on North-West questions it is independent, and places the interest of the North-West above its allegiance to party.

As you drive from the Barracks to town you pass large stables and a one-storied building covering a large area, with kitchen garden to the west, flower garden on the east and hothouse to the south. This is Government House, the seat of the Lieutenant Governor of the Territories. As you drive on you see a new and more stately structure of brick, and, on enquiry, learn that this is the new Government House. Something more than a quarter of a mile's drive brings you to the buildings where the Legislative Assembly of the Territories meets and where the Lieutenant Governor and his staff carry on the business of the country. By their side, to the east, is the Indian Department building, wherein the Indian Commissioner and a large staff conduct the Indian business of the Territories. As you drive on, you pass an elevator and a mill and the railway running north to Prince Albert and a number of well-built houses erected within the last two or three years for residences. Crossing the track of the Canadian Pacific Railway you are soon driving east along the principal business street in which are some very fine stores and two commodious hotels well built of brick, the Lansdowne and the Palmer. Nearing Broad Street you are struck by the substantial character of the buildings. In Broad Street are three hotels, several fine stores and some pretty residences. One of these hotels, the Windsor, a little way up on the east side, makes, with the two already alluded to in South Railway Street, three buildings, large, warm, substantial, for the accommodation of the public, and the way that public is catered for astonishes visitors from the East, who are not prepared to find, in a town eight years old, cooking as good as in any hotel in Eastern Canada, and all the comforts which refinement and care can give. Having driven down Broad Street some distance you turn west on to Eleventh Avenue and see some pretty residences around. What is that fine building standing in an open space? That is the school house. A school house, large as it is, barely able to accommodate the children who have a knack of becoming more numerous every year. Having passed two streets you emerge on Scarth Street, in which are some fine stores and a private bank well built of brick. Turning south you are soon at the post office, a substantial brick structure, and proceeding farther another substantial building leads to enquiry and you learn it was built by the Canada North West Land Company; that it contains the court room where the Supreme Court of the Territories sits; judges' chambers; clerks' chambers; sheriff's offices; land office; that, moreover, its destiny is to be a Land Office and Registry Office, and that within a year or so a fit Temple to Law will be erected, when judge and sheriff and clerk will migrate to more imposing quarters. You are



now in Ontario Street, and to the south on several streets are seen handsome private residences. In Victoria Street is the Bank of Montreal, a large timber building, whence, however, in less than a year the bank will go to a fine brick edifice in course of erection on Scarth Street. In Victoria Street is one of the printing offices; in Broad Street another. At the LEADER office in Victoria Street thousands of volumes have been printed and bound. In Scarth Street is the Town Hall, a large but not an imposing building, erected in the "early days," where public meetings are held, lectures delivered, plays played, concerts sung, balls given. Near it is the Presbyterian Church, no longer large enough for an expanding congregation. From the Post office, looking south-east, you see a large new brick building—the Methodist Church—and to the west, the Roman Catholic Church, and still farther west, the Church of England. To the east of the Methodist Church is a large new timber building. This is the curling rink, erected by a company. It contains two rinks, and the "roaring game" is very popular.

Regina has a mayor and council; a Board of Trade; a Band; a School Board, and all the institutions of a well organized town except a policeman. The electric light is used in stores, hotels, and many private residences, and its streets will soon be lit by electricity. Though the town site extends north of the railway track, the town in the main still lies to the south.

A pamphlet of forty pages, profusely illustrated, and with a map of Assiniboia attached, has been issued by the Regina Board of Trade. It is entitled: "An Unvarnished Tale of Regina," &c., and Mr. R. J. Steel, the Secretary of the Board, tells us:—

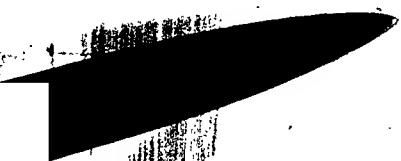
"The Public Schools are a credit to the town, the building being of solid brick, costing \$12,000, three stories high, with a good basement, and a very efficient staff of six teachers, the regular attendance of pupils being 300; the corporate body is composed of a Mayor and six Councillors; there is also a Board of Trade.

"Regina is situated in the centre of a great fertile belt, which is destined to become at a very early date the greatest wheat growing country in the world, and the fact that the land is being so rapidly taken up and cultivated is a proof of the future greatness of this western town. The Board of Trade has been the means of getting lands opened up for settlement, which had been held by speculators. To give some idea of the extent of the Regina district and the strength of the soil it has been computed that if the even numbered sections alone were cultivated with wheat and the yield was twenty bushels to the acre (which is only a medium crop) the Canadian Pacific Railway would not be able to carry away the entire crop in one year.

"The fact of Regina occupying such a central position in this immense country assures its becoming the distributing point for all kinds of farm and garden product as well as live stock. Since the immense immigration to British Columbia, that Province has been wholly unable to supply the demand, and many car loads of stock raised in this country are being sent there annually. Another notable feature with regard to the stock and grain growing in this district is the fact that they always obtain the highest price in the markets of Eastern Canada."

Nine hundred electric lights are constantly in use, and sixty telephones are distributed through the town. The population of Regina, Mr. Steel says, is "about 2,500"—(we should have placed it at 2,000) and he gives a list of enterprises which show that every branch of business is represented. Mr. L. O. Rogers tells us that that there is an opening for a woollen factory, for a flax factory, as there will be "an unlimited demand for binding twine." There are openings for a Boot and Shoe Factory and Tannery combined; a furniture factory; a foundry, and a cheese factory and creamery.

Mr. Daniel Mowat (ex-mayor) a merchant and rancher, points out that Assiniboia, south of the railway, "is peculiarly well adapted for the raising of horses and sheep from its rolling surface. South of Regina for twenty-five miles we have one of the best districts for large farming that there is in the Territories; then across the Moose Jaw from that to the boundary is a vast territory where already are large



bands of horses and cattle." We have ourselves seen some of the finest ranching land in the world south of the line and extending from the Souris to the Cypress Hills. Mr. Rembler Paul, the President, points to places where coal, iron ores, gypsum, clays suitable for pottery, and stone are found.

#### NORTH REGINA.

REPRESENTED IN THE LOCAL HOUSE BY D. F. JELLY, M.L.A.

The district of North Regina runs east and west from Range 17 to Range 23 inclusive, and north and south from Township 18 to 24 inclusive, covering 4,284 square miles, or 685,444 acres. About half the district contains sufficient bush to furnish fuel, fencing and building material, with enough of open prairie between bluffs for cultivation. This part is well adapted for mixed farming. There is ample means for watering stock, and hay sloughs in abundance; in fact, this is a great farming district.

The soil in this portion is gravel or sandy loam, and for growing all kinds of cereals and root crops cannot be surpassed.

The other half open undulating prairie, every foot of which can be ploughed, except those portions bordering on streams and rivers. These river bottoms are specially adapted for stock raising, there being abundance of excellent running water, hay meadows and shelter for all kinds of stock. In these valleys horses run out the whole year, and do well without feed of any kind except what these bounteous and beautiful valleys afford. Cattle also run out nearly the whole winter. In the severest winters housing is not necessary for more than three months.

The Qu'Appelle River flows across the whole district for some eighty miles, through a valley which is one of the finest in the Territories for stock raising. The Wascana River has plenty of excellent water, good shelter, and on its banks abundance of wood. Boggy Creek runs through the southern portion of the district, and like its sister streams has good water, a wide valley, and is well timbered near its mouth, where it empties into the Qu'Appelle from the south.

The Loon Creek settlement is about thirty miles from Regina, where plenty of vacant land not only awaits but invites settlement. This is a most inviting spot.

The "Little Arm" Creek, running into Long Lake from the West, is, says Mr. Jelly, a very desirable place for settlement, and there is plenty of land vacant there. It is about thirty miles distant from Regina and bordering on the railroad between Prince Albert and Regina. The land is excellent for mixed farming.

Long Lake is some sixty miles long and two miles wide. Its southernmost point is about twenty miles from Regina. It is surrounded by a fine country for mixed farming. Very little of the land has as yet been taken up. It will afford good homes for thousands of settlers. The lake itself is a beautiful sheet of waters, and abounds in fish of several kinds, its whitefish being very fine and delicate. Going further north, only here and there do we find an odd settler with cattle.

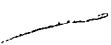
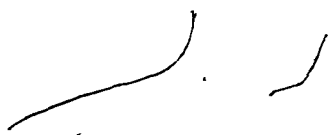
"Spring opens about the middle of March, and seeding commences the last week in March; harvest takes place about the last of August.

"Winter generally sets in about January 1st, and breaks up about March 15th.

"The winter employments are getting out wood for market, hunting and fishing, &c. The winters are the finest in the world, generally speaking; the nights are very cold, and the days bright and sunny.

"The chief crops raised here are wheat, oats, peas, barley, Indian corn, rape, turnips, mangolds, carrots, cabbage, cauliflower, celery and, in short, nearly all roots to be named. The soil and climate are suited to the finest wheat raising, and all other grains mentioned above do well. The average yield in ordinary favourable seasons being: wheat, 25 bushels per acre; oats, 40; barley, 40; peas, 20; flax, 20; potatoes, 300.

"A great portion of this district is well adapted to stock-raising, the grass and hay being rich and luxuriant. Horses do well, heavy ones being thought most desirable. In cattle, Shorthorns answer best, and in sheep perhaps the Downs are



best suited. The valleys where streams are to be found are particularly suited to dairy farming; their grasses being abundant and nutritious. Native hay is plentiful. The water supply is of the very best and in plenty. The nights in summer are always cool. There is a good home market for butter."

North and north east of Regina there are some most interesting settlements.

There is a German settlement where prosperity and plenty reign—good farms—good houses—made by men who came in with very little besides their strong arms, steady perseverance and high intelligence. Their houses are very substantial and are made of a kind of cement which they make themselves out of the soil. The idea these settlers have formed of their "location," may be gathered from the name they have given their post office—Edenwald.

Near these is the settlement in the "Bluffs"—the name importing that it is timbered around the sloughs. Here you may drive a whole day through a lovely park-like country. The settlers are composed of English, Irish, Scotch and some of their homes are set in floral beauty.

More westerly is a Highland settlement where men and women with all the noble qualities of Highlanders are laying the foundations of prosperity.

Further to the north—lying east of Long Lake, is a German settlement, Strassbourg, in the midst of a lovely bluff country—marked by much prosperity and progress.

Wild flowers of every kind abound, as do all the small fruits in North Regina.

#### SOUTH REGINA.

REPRESENTED BY JOHN SECORD, Q.C., M.L.A.

South Regina comprises about 4,200 square miles in area. The south westerly portion, taking in Wood Mountain, is well wooded; there is abundance of water, and this, with the rich grass, makes it specially suited for ranching purposes. The rest of the district is well adapted for wheat growing and mixed farming. The soil is a clay loam of great depth and inexhaustible fertility. It is watered by the Wascana and Moose Jaw Creeks in the North, and the head waters of Long Creek and Big Muddy Creek in the South. Lakes, ponds and sloughs are numerous.

Cattle and horses run out the year round with marked success.

Spring opens about 1st of April, and seeding commences about a week later. Harvest begins about August 20th, and winter sets in from November 15th to January 1st. Sometimes, as in the present winter, 1890-91, you may go on far into January without having Winter or anything like what Winter is in the East. To-day, the 19th of January, in Regina, men go about without an over-coat, and the air is balmy. Further west it will be milder still. Two days ago I was in Moose Jaw, and but for the slight snow on the ground, what with the softness of the air, the summer-like blue of the sky and the warm feeling in the white clouds, you would fancy it was early summer. On that day they were playing cricket at Medicine Hat.

During the winter, settlers haul hay and firewood to market, and look after stock; they also haul stone and other building materials to town.

"Owing," says Mr. John Secord, "to large demands for hay, potatoes, oats and other farm produce required by the Mounted Police, who have their headquarters at Regina, and the liberal policy of the Government which restricts the purchase of these articles in large quantities, preferring to assist individual settlers by dividing the purchase of the same among them. A good market is provided at fair prices, handy to the settlers."

"Our land is specially adapted for wheat-growing, crops running from 20 to 40 bushels to the acre, averaging in ordinarily favourable seasons, 25 bushels. Oats are a good crop, usually running from 35 to 70 bushels per acre.

"Barley yields from 25 to 35 bushels, and is a sure crop at any time.

"Potatoes and other roots, with ordinary care, yield largely. Garden stuffs, as cauliflower, cabbage, rhubarb, carrots, beets, &c., are grown with great success, as can be shown by a visit to the market gardens in the vicinity of Regina."





The southern portion of this district is well adapted for stock raising. Grass grows luxuriantly in the foot hills, and hay can be gathered by thousands of tons on the yellow grass marsh.

"Last winter, 1889-90 was a severe one, but notwithstanding that, one of our largest horse ranches to the south, that of Mowat Brothers, lost but one yearling colt, and the whole band ran out the entire season, finding their own food.

"Cattle and sheep prosper, and owing to the good market, and high price of labour they are principally grown for beef and mutton, but the facilities for dairy cattle cannot be excelled, as anywhere along the creeks and hills is specially suitable for dairy farming. At Willow Bunch a cheese factory has been in operation for several years, and another has recently been started south-east of Regina."

As to the luxuriance and richness of grasses, abundance of native hay for fodder, the purity of water, the coolness of the night temperature, the good demand and ready market for all produce, and a ready and fairly cheap means of transportation, "I can," says Mr. Secord "attest."

"At present the settler has to largely depend upon the ravines and valleys for wood supply. Coal is to be found in large seams in the south of this district, but owing to the distance from any railroad it is as yet undeveloped. This coal is between forty and eighty miles from Regina, and tested, has been pronounced good lignite.

"There is plenty of good land still open for settlement, about seven or more miles from the railway. Land can be bought from \$3 to \$10 per acre, averaging \$5 in price.

In a small portion of the district it has been found difficult to obtain water, but in the larger portion water is obtained—good in quality—by digging from twenty to eighty feet.

Good markets are found at Regina, Pense and Balgonie for the sale of all kinds of farm produce. Wheat is now (1890) quoted at 80 cents per bushel, oats at 60 cents and potatoes at \$1.50. This latter high price is owing to last year's crop having been a small one, as in average years they sell at from 50 cents to 75 cents per bushel. Butter sells readily at from 20 cents to 25 cents per pound. Eggs at 20 cents to 40 cents per dozen.

Game is abundant. Small fruits flourish; as do native and domestic plants.

The district is well opened by means of roads and bridges.

As a matter of course incoming settlers may obtain everything necessary to commence farming with.

Speaking of Balgonie to the east, Mr. Secord says:—"The crops grown consist chiefly of wheat, oats, barley, &c., and, in fairly favourable seasons, a good average crop is sure. Considerable drawback in this district has been occasioned by the neglect on the part of the farmers to have their cultivated land summer fallowed and ready for spring seeding. Any neglect of this necessary precaution has been attended with inferior results, and the farmers are beginning to profit by this experience, and better harvests may, in future, be expected. Flax is grown successfully, so much so that the Canada Agricultural Company have decided to erect flax mills and will manufacture the fibre, so well satisfied are they with experiments in that crop.

"The average yield of wheat in a favourable season may be estimated at about twenty-five bushels to the acre, oats from forty to sixty, barley thirty-five bushels. As for root crops no place can be found to compare with, or at least beat, this district. Wonderful crops of potatoes have been harvested, and the other varieties are as successful.

"The southern part of this district is very well adapted to stock-raising and ranching, there being an excellent range of pasture lands; hills sufficient to make a good shelter during the stormy days in winter, and in summer there is a splendid water supply to be had in the numerous creeks which traverse that part of the district.

"The Canadian Agricultural Company of Balgonie wintered about three hun-



dred head of cattle within fifteen miles of that village this past winter, 1889-90, and this spring they are in remarkably good shape, notwithstanding the very severe winter they passed through, and the fact that over two-thirds of this band were with calf (some of them calving as early as March) and yet none of their cows were lost.

South of Balgonie is the great farm of the C. A. & C. Company managed by Mr. Arthur Webb. Not far off is a German settlement and a settlement mainly composed of farmers from Victoria (Ontario) may soon be reached—that of "Davin." Here will be found noble specimens of the Ontario farmer, all enthusiastic about their new country. On Buck Lake again we have an Ontario farmer settlement, prosperous and substantial, good, wholesome people. At Willow Bunch to the far south and more westerly is a settlement of Metis and a few French Canadians, belonging to prominent families in Lower Canada and who have elected the free life of the rancher.

"There is a good supply of wood for fuel purposes at small cost, a settler being able to procure a year's supply for the cutting at 50 cents, the Government charge.

"Many good homesteads available within from four to six miles of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Balgonie, a thriving village on the main line, situated 341 miles west of Winnipeg and just fifteen miles east of Regina. Land may be bought at from \$2.50 to \$7.50 an acre, according to location, &c.

"A number of abandoned homesteads are open now (in this vicinity) for cancellation, belonging to parties who, coming here in boom times, took them up with motives of speculation, having no intention whatever of farming the land. Full particulars can be had by communicating with the postmaster at Balgonie.

"Timber for fencing can be had with little or no difficulty, but none of any size for building purposes. In some parts the water supply is not altogether satisfactory, while in others there is an adequate supply all the year round. The depth at which water is found, is usually from 30 to 80 feet.

"As a rule the farmer finds a ready market for his surplus produce."

At present, the fall of 1890, the market prices are as follows:—Wheat at 72 cents and upwards; oats, 45 cents; potatoes, \$1 per bushel; butter from 14 to 18 cents per pound; and eggs from 12 to 17 cents per dozen.

All smaller fruits, gooseberries, currants, &c., do well with moderate care. Wild hops grow in abundance and the native black currants and Saskatoon berries.

A farmer finds no difficulty in procuring all implements, seed-grain, cattle, &c., and on most liberal terms.

### MOOSEJAW.

REPRESENTED IN LOCAL HOUSE BY JAMES ROSS, M.L.A.

✓ Moosejaw is one of the prettiest towns in the North-West Territories. Lying north of the railway the Moosejaw is seen to the south of the track and skirting the town on the east. The principal street runs straight up from the track and the houses will one day reach the hill which rising boldly suggests a splendid site for some civic structure. There are some very nice churches and the school house is a fine building. Wherever one stands in Moosejaw a picturesque view can be secured.

"The electoral district of Moose Jaw extends from the International boundary to the southern boundary of the provisional district of Saskatchewan, and is included between range 23, west of the second Principal Meridian, and range 6, west of the Third Meridian.

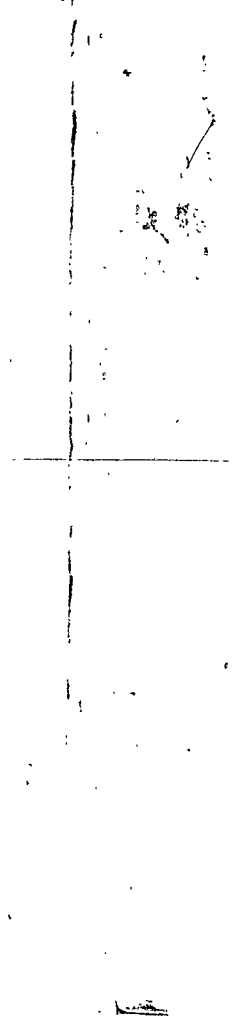
The district is 204 miles from north to south, and 78 miles from east to west. Nearly the whole of this extensive district, says Mr. Ross, is adapted for mixed farming. The settled portion consists of a strip ranging in width from 20 to 30 miles along the line of the C. P. Railway west to Caron station. A small portion of the district in the north-west corner is covered with forest; the remainder rolling prairie; that in the south hilly. From township 14 to township 35 the land is particularly well adapted for grain raising, and is described in the surveyor's notes as "first class." The well known ranches of Riddell, Green & Tascelles, Gagen &





SCENE ON MOOSELAW CREEK.

WESTERN WORLD



A'Court, and J. L. Legaré, are in the Moose Jaw district. The soil is a rich clay loam on a clay subsoil from 6 to 10 feet in depth. The southern branch of the Saskatchewan crosses the district in a north-easterly direction. The two arms of the Qu'Appelle, one of which runs into Buffalo Lake, cross the district, and unite in township 19, range 24.

Lakes, ponds, and sloughs are numerous.

The climate is healthy; endemic, and epidemic diseases are unknown. The average summer temperature is about 75° F. That of winter 20° F. Cool nights, abundant rainfall, and the prevailing north-west winds modify the heat of summer, while the cold of winter is moderated by Chinook winds.

Spring opens about 1st March, and seeding generally begins about the end of March or beginning of April. Harvest commences about 5th August. Winter sets in about 15th December, the extremely cold weather extending from 1st January to 15th February.

The Moose Jaw district is one of the best wheat raising sections in the North-West, and Moose Jaw wheat is sought after by shippers and millers, and it commands the best market price. The average yield per acre for the past four seasons has been about 25 bush. to the acre, and in some more favoured cases a yield of 40 bush. has been reported.

In the season of 1889, 125,000 bushels of No. 1 hard wheat was shipped from Moose Jaw station, and the prospect at present is that this amount will be very largely increased this year. On the Chicago Grain Exchange in 1887, Moose Jaw wheat was pronounced to be the finest sample of that season in America.

While the whole of the Moose Jaw district is well suited for mixed farming there are sections of it specially suited for stock raising and ranching. In the northern part are many choice locations, with all necessary wood, hay, water, shelter, &c. Along the Qu'Appelle Valley are a number of fine ranges for horses and cattle, also in the District Hills, south of the railway.

Sheep raising has also proved a decided success, as shown by the experience of Messrs. Banbridge and McLean, and Ross and Turnbull. Horses and cattle live out during the winter months, and thrive well on the dry grass which they are able to procure, on account of the very light snowfall. In the winter of 1888 a flock of 2,000 sheep were wintered within a couple of miles of the town of Moose Jaw, and were not fed any hay whatever. As a sheep-ranching country, the southern portion of the district cannot be surpassed.

Dairy farming is an important industry in this district.

Mr. Jean Legaré, at Willow Bunch, has a cheese factory, where the milk of 300 cows is manufactured into cheese; and his experience, along with that of Mr. E. N. Hopkins, an experienced cheese maker, is that the prairie grass will produce milk that will make the finest flavoured cheese.

The butter made by the farmers is also first-class. There are splendid openings in the district for the establishing of creameries and cheese factories, the products of which would find a ready market in the West.

"In the hills of the southern portion of the district, and in the ravines along the Qu'Appelle river, is a limited supply of wood, but the principal fuel used in the town and in parts of the country is coal, from the Lethbridge colliery.

"In the southern portion of the district are extensive deposits of coal, the seams of which may be seen projecting from the hill sides. It is only a matter of a few years until these will be opened up and developed, and the settlers supplied with fuel at a reasonable figure.

"North of the town and the Canadian Pacific Railway, as far west as Caron, for a distance of fifteen or twenty miles, all the homestead lands are taken up, except a few scattered quarter-sections. South of the track the homesteads are nearly all taken up as far as the Dirt Hills. North-west of Caron station are a large number of good sections still untaken. Very little Canadian Pacific Railway land has been sold in this district as yet, the company having still the bulk of their land in the





market for sale, at prices ranging from \$2.50 to \$10 an acre, according to location, &c. Lumber and other building materials can be procured by the settlers, at reasonable prices. Two lumber firms do business in town, and a yard in which first-class brick is manufactured has recently been started. Building stone can also be had in abundance in portions of the district. In addition to the coal deposits already mentioned, iron ore has been found among the hills, leading to the belief that there are vast stores of that important mineral existing in the southern portion of the district. On section 28, township 14, range 24, is a large quantity of pottery clay, which has been pronounced by experts to be equal to the famous Bristol clay of England, but its distance from the railway has prevented its being worked ere this.

"Despite all that has been reported to the contrary, the Moose Jaw district is fairly well supplied with water, both for the use of stock and domestic purposes. Except along the rivers, the digging of wells has been attended with some uncertainty, on account of the great expense of sinking them to a proper depth; but the settlers have in a measure solved the water problem by constructing reservoirs which hold a supply of water for the use of stock, &c. In some cases water has been struck at a depth of from 10 to 20 feet, but again 150 feet has failed to find water.

"The town of Moose Jaw is centrally located in the district, and offers a splendid market for all kinds of farm produce. Four grain firms have buyers on the market, and prices generally range within three or four cents of Winnipeg quotations, at the Canadian Pacific Railway sidings, at Belle Plain, Pasqua, Caron and Boharm; the farmers in the vicinity are allowed to load their grain direct from their granaries to the cars, and realize the same price as could be obtained by hauling it to the market town. The Moose Jaw market has always been considered by the farmers, one of the best West of Brandon.

The educational advantages which the district offers to settlers are as elsewhere of the first order. In the town of Moose Jaw there is an excellent union school with a high school department, the Principal is a highly cultivated man and he has two lady assistants. In this high school department, students are prepared for teacher's examinations and university matriculation. Ten rural school districts are now in active operation in the Moose Jaw district, and there is not a child in the district shut out on account of distance from attending one of them.

There are four churches, and four resident ministers in the town of Moose Jaw. The Salvation Army hold nightly meetings in their barracks in town. The moral tone of the people both of the town and district is high. Crime is unknown.

The Moose Jaw district was, before the advent of the settler, one of the great resorts, and feeding grounds of the now almost extinct Buffalo; evidence of this is seen in the numerous trails and Buffalo wallows on the prairie; and the vast number of bones that lie whitening on the broad expanse.

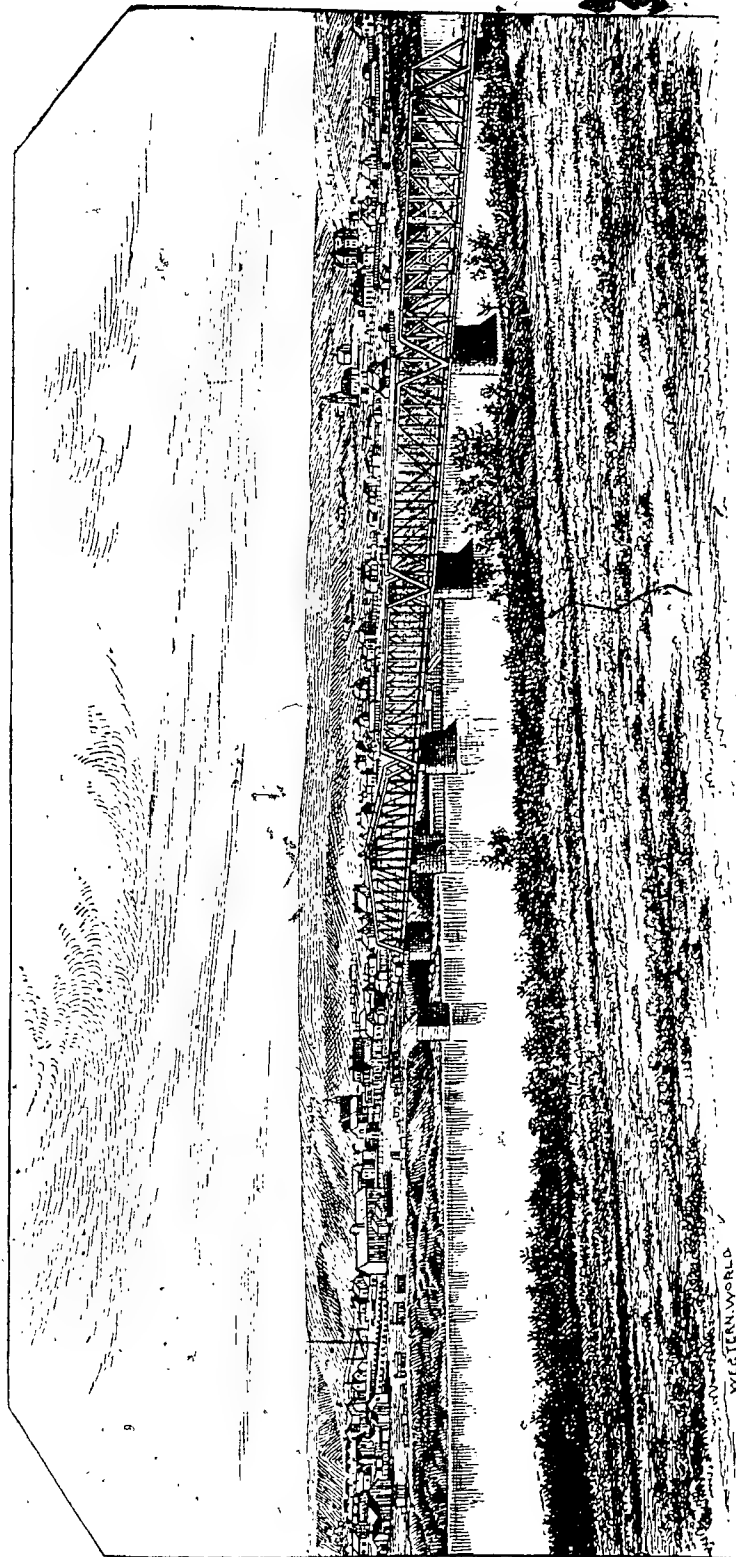
"The principal wild animals remaining in the unsettled portions are deer, antelope, coyote, badger, fox, rabbit and wolf. There are no fish in any of the rivers. Water-fowl, ducks and geese appear in the spring and fall, in large numbers on streams, ponds and lakes; partridge, prairie chickens, sand-hill cranes, wild turkeys, &c., are also found in large numbers.

Native fruits are found in abundance, as raspberries, strawberries, gooseberries, currants, wild-cherries, saskatoon-berries, &c., can be found in great quantities in many parts of the district.

Excellent trails and roads have been constructed in every section of the settled portion of the district, those made by the Government being in every case on the Government road allowance. As settlement increases, and population becomes denser, the Government roads become more used. Where necessary—for the accommodation of the settlers—bridges have been constructed. No difficulty is experienced by incoming settlers, in procuring the necessary outfits, such as agricultural implements, seed-grain, cattle, &c.

There are six post offices in the Moosejaw district, and every settler is within easy access of an office. The mails are forwarded weekly, from the Moosejaw office to the outlying country offices. Caron and Pasqua are supplied from the Canadian





MEDICINE HAT.



Pacific Railway. A monthly mail is carried from Moosejaw to the Willow Bunch settlement and to Wood Mountain post.

The Canadian Pacific Railway telegraph system gives all the accomodation required by settlers. A government line runs south from Moosejaw to Wood Mountain, near the international boundary.

### MEDICINE HAT.

Thomas Tweed, Esq., Member in the Legislative Assembly.

The electoral district of Medicine Hat consists of that portion of the provisional district of Assiniboia, lying west of the line between ranges six and seven, west of the Third Initial Meridian (in the Dominion Lands system of survey). It extends south to the United States boundary line, and north to the Red Deer River, but, more properly speaking, what is known as the Medicine Hat district, consists of, say, fifty miles of the western portion of the said provisional district.

The town of Medicine Hat, one of the prettiest on the continent, is situated on the south bank of the South Saskatchewan, near its junction with the Seven Persons' River, and is six hundred and sixty miles west of Winnipeg, and about half way between that city and the Pacific coast.

Medicine Hat lies in a bend of the Saskatchewan river, and surrounded by hills is wonderfully picturesque. The churches are very pretty and prettily situated. On one of the hills are the barracks of a detachment of the Mounted Police. The Medicine Hat Hospital is a noble building where some first-class work in surgery has been done. It has all the furnishing needed for such an institution. The *Medicine Hat Times* is published here.

The Medicine Hat district is composed of slightly rolling prairie, interspersed with light bush, and towards the south timber abounds.

"The district of Medicine Hat, is noted throughout the North-West as possessing the finest all-year-round climate, between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and while other portions of the Dominion may have a higher mean temperature, this may be accounted for by the fact that they have warm nights, while here the evenings are always cool and pleasant. The climate is very healthy, quite free from endemic and epidemic diseases, and is known as a resort for consumptive people. It may be compared to the climate of Colorado.

The average temperature all the year round, I give of 1889-90:—

1889— May.....	55.17	Summer: 58.64
July.....	65.15	
June.....	63.70	
August.....	65.72	
September.....	52.95	
October.....	49.13	Winter: 16.81
November.....	28.25	
December.....	14.53	
1890— January.....	7.80	
February.....	0.42	NOTE.—January was 10 degrees lower than average of 6 previous years.
March.....	25.54	
April.....	40.74	

"The summer heat is tempered by the waters of the beautiful broad Saskatchewan River, fed by the Bow and Elbow, Belly and Little Bow Rivers, and the many other tributaries which rise in the Rocky Mountains, and flowing into the Saskatchewan, combine to make it the greatest of North-West rivers.

This river carrying as it does through our district, the icy water from the glaciers of the Rockies, has great effect in modifying the heat of the summer. Numerous creeks and lakes abound also.

The Chinook winds tempers the winters.



Oats, wheat, barley, and all roots grow here. The soil produces potatoes which would delight an Irishman's heart, and the finest barley in the world.

"Under favourable circumstances, a yield of from 25 to 40 bushels of wheat per acre can be had, and about 50 or 60 bushels of oats.

"Whatever difference of opinion may exist as to the capabilities and resources of this district, one and all agree that the world does not possess its equal for stock raising, especially the southern part, where an abundance of nutritious grass and hay is to be found. Cattle, horses and sheep, of any breed range out all winter, and rarely do they receive any feed from the hand of man. The length of the summer season and absence of summer frosts, permit of the hay being perfectly cured, which together with the light snow fall, and frequent melting Chinook winds during the winter furnishes accessible food during the winter months, and accounts for the fine condition animals are found in on this arrival of spring. Never failing streams of pure water satisfy their thirst; in a word, stock ranching can be, and is, made a grand success throughout the entire district; an export trade is already being developed; and with proper attention paid to breeding the best stock, the highest prices will be commanded and as a consequence ranching will pay, due regard being had to economic and careful management.

"The abundance of good hay, and pure water, the cool nights, the unlimited demand for good butter and cheese, both at home and abroad, combine to make this district peculiarly adapted for dairy-farming, the same as is the case with its twin industry of cattle-raising.

"The principal fuel used is coal, of which there is an unlimited supply, and at reasonable prices; the quality of coal is between a lignite and bituminous. The mines are from three to six miles from Medicine Hat. The Stair colliery being six miles from the town, has direct rail communication with the Canadian Pacific Railroad, and employs a large number of miners, &c. Culley's mine is about three miles from town.

"A large quantity of Government land is still open for settlement. A homestead entry can be obtained on payment of \$10 to the Government. Good land can be purchased outright from the Canadian Pacific Railway, or the Government for \$2.50 an acre, and most of these lands are within easy reach of the different railways."

"Lumber can be obtained from the Cypress Hills, about 30 miles south of Medicine Hat; but the chief supply is imported from the forest of British Columbia. Good building stone has been found in quantities. The Medicine Hat Hospital—costing about \$20,000—a handsome and durable structure, is built with this stone. Fire-clay is found in different parts of the district, and a good, hard red building brick is also manufactured.

The mineral resources of this district have not as yet been thoroughly tested, although it is the opinion of competent judges that iron ore is largely in deposit.

An abundant supply of pure water is in every part of the district, and when dug for is found at from 20 to 60 feet.

So far the towns and railway houses along the line afford a good market for farm and garden produce. At the present time, autumn of 1890, eggs are selling at 30 cents a dozen; butter at 35 cents per pound; potatoes \$1 a bushel. The probability is that for some time these prices will rule, as the development of railways which brings into the country numbers of produce consumers will tend to maintain the present prices.

The schools in the electoral districts are all that could be desired.

There are five churches in Medicine Hat, Presbyterian, Baptist, Episcopal, Methodist and Roman Catholic, while visiting clergy attend to outlying and sparsely settled parts of the district.

Of game there is an abundance. Antelope are plentiful, and in the northern part deer of various kinds. Wild geese, ducks and prairie chickens, &c., are numerous. The Saskatchewan River abounds in fish, principally pike, sturgeon, pickerel and gold-eyes. In certain streams whitefish is found.





Fruit will do well in sheltered places. Wild currants, and strawberries grow in profusion; tomatoes ripen every year, and all kinds of garden stuffs do well.

The district is being gradually provided with roads and bridges.

Agricultural implements, seed-grain, horses and cattle can be procured in the district for farming purposes and at reasonable prices.

Our postal and telegraphic facilities are very good.

#### DUNMORE.

Turning east we come to Dunmore, a town which is making great progress. The area of the sub-district of Dunmore is about 1,200 square miles, varying from rolling to hilly lands, traversed by well sheltered valleys, springs and creeks. Along the southern boundary is a range of hills that abound in jack-pine and poplar. The remainder is prairie. This whole district is well adapted for mixed farming, and numerous lakes of good water are found, and hay meadows in fairly wet seasons.

The soil varies from light to dark sandy clay loam, 8 to 18 inches in depth. The sub-soil is cretaceous clay, sometimes mixed with gravel.

The Saskatchewan River is about six miles west of the western boundary, and is navigable to its mouth.

The climate of this district is very healthy and entirely free from all diseases.

The opening of spring, seeding time, harvest and closing in of winter, is much the same as that described as of Medicine Hat. In winter the few cold spells are followed by Chinook winds from the Pacific. Owing to the dryness of the atmosphere the thermometer reading is hardly any indication of the feeling when outside. There is no feeling of chilliness, and the days are pleasant and bracing. Our summers are long and warm, and would be perfect if we had more rain. The winter occupations are looking after stock and general farm work, while at Dunmore numbers of men find ready work all winter in transferring coal from the mines to the Canadian Pacific Railway cars. These men work out of doors every day throughout the entire winter with no protection whatever. The principal local demand is for oats and potatoes, this district being as yet somewhat apart from any populous centre. The soil in fairly wet seasons will grow roots, vegetables, oats, wheat, barley and flax. During fair seasons oats will yield probably from forty to sixty bushels, and wheat will run from thirty to forty bushels, but so far not much has been attempted in these lines.

"The Dunmore farm of the Canadian Agricultural Company, situated here, did their seeding on new breaking, and the season being an exceptionally dry one, little could be expected, but the yield on early sowing of oats was, under these disadvantages, twenty bushels per acre.

Stock-raising is the most successful industry of this district. The snow fall is light, and the average temperature high. There is plenty of grass of most nutritious quality, and which grows luxuriantly in wet seasons. These grasses seem to cure uncut, and the best bred horses come through a winter in splendid order, if only near some of the flowing springs, without other feeding.

Cattle of any breed do well. Cheviot sheep being active and hardy, are, I think, better than any of the Down breeds.

As yet no large developments have been made in dairying in this section, but with the increase of settlement and of dairy cattle, there is nothing to prevent a large industry of this kind, climate, fuel, water, &c., being all that a dairyman could desire. The local demand for butter, &c., is supplied by resident farmers, whose products are as good as anything obtained in Ontario or the Eastern Townships.

Underlying this whole country is found coal, but as yet it is undeveloped. It can be bought at Dunmore station at prices ranging from \$1.50 up to \$4 per ton. Pine and poplar abound on the southern portion of this district, along the slope of the Cypress Hills.

The district extends from about twelve miles north, to thirty miles south of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and from Dunmore station to about thirty miles east of it.



Land can be purchased from the Canadian Pacific Railway at from \$2 to \$3 an acre, according to location.

"Being in general a prairie district, wood is rather scarce. Sandstone, however, is plentiful, cropping out in ravines all over the country.

"Wells are comparatively numerous, and where judicious selection is made in location, no difficulty appears in obtaining good water, at from 25 to 60 feet.

"There are four school districts in this section.

"Several kinds of deer are found here, and wild fowl, such as curlew, snipe, prairie chicken, are plentiful.

"The smaller fruits would doubtless do well; as cherries, black currants, gooseberries and strawberries are native to the country. Tomatoes, melons and cucumbers ripen well, and flowers bloom to great perfection, as witness the C.P.R. gardens at adjoining stations along the line. At Dunmore, last year a resident commenced digging new potatoes and gathered green peas on the 9th of June. Cabbage, celery, cauliflower and other vegetables when properly attended to flourish.

"Regarding postal and telegraphic communication, it may be described as good.

#### MAPLE CREEK.

That portion of the Cypress Hills which forms the base of Maple Creek to the south extends from 30 miles west to 50 miles east of Maple Creek and south to the international boundary line. The range of the Cypress Hills runs east and west about 150 miles in extent. They are full of deep and well-timbered ravines, out of which run streams of water which the driest summer fails to lower, and the hardest winter fails to freeze. Thus is afforded abundant water for cattle at all seasons. In earlier times the favourite winter ground of buffalo, it offers a range equally suited for domestic cattle. Situated in the Chinook belt the snow fall is light, the winters short, and never of such severity as to prevent stock from running out all winter.

"The timber is confined to the hills and creek bottoms. There is any quantity for building and fuel, and in no case more than a day's travel from any location liable to be settled in the near future.

"We would not wish to recommend this district for grain-growing alone, for these reasons:—The climate, like all that portion of the continent subject to the influence of Chinook winds, is dry, and crops cannot be depended upon unless irrigation can be resorted to. It is well adapted for mixed farming, or rather ranching on a small scale. A man who owns sufficient cattle to make it a paying investment, and keep them close, attends to them and farming sufficient to feed the number of cattle he owns. It is especially adapted for ranching—equal to any part of the North-West.

"The sub-soil is generally a sandy loam, with clay and gravel.

"The hills are full of creeks, from three to five miles apart.

"The climate is healthy, being free from all diseases of other countries.

"The average summer temperature is about 60° above zero, and in winter it is about zero. The Chinook winds that blow in this district moderate the winter's cold.

"Spring opens about 1st of March and seeding begins from middle of the same until April 1st. Harvest begins about end of July. Winter sets in about the last of December, and breaks up about the latter part of February. Spring opens about 1st of March and seeding begins a couple of weeks later.

The principal crops raised in this district are oats and roots. In the low lying grounds other crops have been raised successfully. Oats yield from 30 to 40 bushels; potatoes, 200 to 250; while wheat has also yielded 25 and 30 bushels an acre; but owing to our situation it has not been gone into extensively. In short grain growing is not to any extent attempted here.

The hills are covered with nutritious grasses and native hay in quantities so as to make this district especially adapted for stock-raising. The cattle best suited for range would be Texas cattle, crossed with some larger breed, Hereford being a



favourite. The Texas animal (cow) having the hardihood, and the nature of a wild animal, will protect her calf from wolves or any danger, and having the hardihood to withstand the severity of the winter, will live throughout where eastern cattle will succumb. The Hereford or Durham will give size, so as to increase the value of the animal raised.

In horses the same condition exists here as does in any other part of the Dominion, the animal to be raised is one to suit the eastern market.

Parts of this district are especially adapted for dairying. The peculiar luxuriance and richness of the grasses tend to this branch of farming; numerous streams of pure water, abundance of native hay, cool nights, ensure success. The present supply of butter is not equal to the home demand, but some who have found an outside market, have made this a paying business, the returns from the venture being sufficient to pay the household expenses.

Wood and coal can be obtained in abundance, in the Cypress Hills, while coal is sold in the village of Maple Creek at \$5.70 per ton.

Building materials both in timber and limestone from the Cypress Hills. There is a large saw mill at the head of the mountain, and a saw yard in Maple Creek. On the various creeks coal crops out and the settlers utilize it for their own use.

The farmers have no difficulty in disposing of their produce, and prices are good, exceeding Manitoba quotations. Wheat sells at about 80 cents, oats from 50 cents to 75 cents, potatoes as high as \$1, while butter and eggs run 30 cents and 35 cents.

We have good schools in Maple Creek.

Here we have three churches, namely, Methodist, Episcopal and Roman Catholic.

"There is an abundance of game on lakes and creeks. Fish is not very plentiful. The water fowl found here are geese, ducks, brant and crane; also an abundance of prairie chickens, rabbits, and larger game, such as antelope, deer, coyote, fox, lynx, wolf, and a few bears.

Fruit culture has never been tried here, but we have native fruits of the smaller varieties, blueberries, raspberries, Saskatoon strawberries, and others; but little doubt is felt that, if tried, other kinds might be successfully grown.

With roads and bridges the district is well supplied. Seed grain, agricultural implements, cattle, &c., can all be obtained easily.

In postal and telegraphic facilities, the accommodation is good. We receive two daily mails and have direct communication to all parts by wire.

#### SWIFT CURRENT.

The district of Swift Current runs north 30 miles to the South Branch, Saskatchewan river, and runs south 20 miles and extends from Rush Lake on the east to Gull Lake on the west, a distance of about 60 miles. The land is rolling prairie, somewhat hilly, and is both adapted to coarse grain growing and ranching. The soil varies; in parts it is of a rich clay loam, and again a light sandy loam, and the subsoil sandy clay and rich heavy clay.

The Swift Current Creek runs north through this district, emptying into the South Branch Saskatchewan.

The valley along Swift Current is fertile and well adapted to mixed farming. The whole district is suitable for cattle-raising. Lakes, ponds and sloughs are very numerous.

The average summer temperature is 60°; that of winter rarely exceeds 2 below zero. The Chinook winds moderating the cold.

Spring opens early and seeding begins about 1st April; harvest takes place about the 1st of September; winter sets in about 15th December and breaks up 1st of March.

The settlers' winter employments are fencing, building, drawing hay, &c.

The average yield of oats has been 50 bushels an acre; potatoes and other vegetables yield well and attain a tremendous size in growth.

Good grazing in abundance makes this district one where all animals can thrive. Sheep do well. Native hay is plentiful and water ditto. This goes to show that



dairying can be made a success. As, for example, from eight quarts of ordinary grade cow's milk one pound of butter has been given. The summer nights are cool, and the demand for dairy produce exceeds the present supply.

Coal is used entirely, as fuel, and can be bought at a reasonable price.

A very small portion of land is as yet taken. Free homesteads can be had along the Canadian Pacific Railway (which runs through the centre of the district), and odd-numbered sections may be purchased at low rates.

Fencing timber can be had some twelve miles from Swift Current. Rough stone, suitable for building foundations, is to be had in many places, and limestone is plentiful.

Strong indications of coal and iron are found at short distances from the railway.

District wells supply water for domestic use and for stock. Water is found, as a rule, at a depth of 30 feet, and is of good quality.

The present market quotations (in the autumn of 1890) are: Oats, 75c.; potatoes, \$1.00; butter, 30c.; eggs, 25c. per doz.

There is a great abundance of game, consisting of deer, antelope, rabbits, geese, ducks, snipe, plover and prairie chickens; whitefish and other species are found in plenty in the rivers and lakes.

Wild fruits grow all through the valley in great abundance: cherries, strawberries, gooseberries, &c.

The roads and bridges are good.

Thus we have passed from the prosperous Moosomin in the east to the prosperous and picturesque Medicine Hat in the west, and we have, under the guidance of representative men, given the reader some idea of the attractions offered to the settler by Assiniboia. As these sheets are passing through a final revision (Sept. 18, 1891) we learn that all the crop has been harvested, that (but this seems to us almost incredible) not one ear of wheat has been frozen in the ENTIRE NORTH-WEST, and the Board of Trade of Regina has issued the following circular:—

“IMPORTANT”

“THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES (particularly ASSINIBOIA) and MANITOBA have just garnered the greatest crop they ever had. It is currently reported that frost has affected the crop more or less, and in reporting it broadcast over the world care has not been taken to state plainly that *Manitoba alone* has suffered from this cause.

“OUR OBJECT in this circular is, in the first place, to draw your attention to the fact that the great Province of Assiniboia stretches west of Manitoba 460 miles. Its climate is therefore much milder and freer from frost.

“This year, we positively assert that up to the present date we have *not had the first sign of frost in the Regina District, Assiniboia!* The tenderest plants and vines are still as green and thriving as they were in June. Three-quarters of the grain in this District is to-day cut and is being stacked—wheat yielding from 30 to 40 bushels, barley about 60, and oats from 60 to 100 bushels per acre.

“REMBLER PAUL,

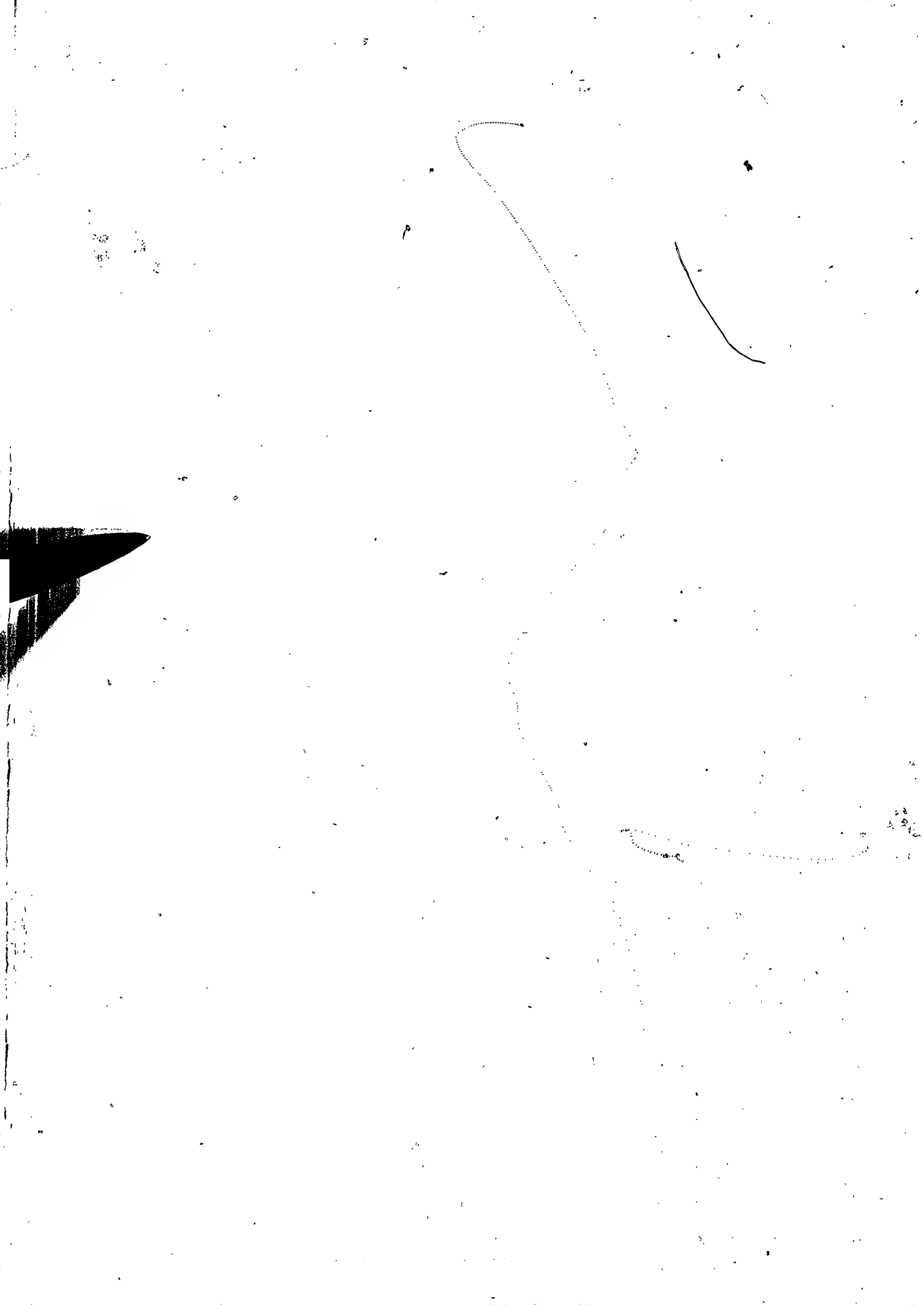
“President Regina Board of Trade.

“THOS. J. McNIECE

“President Assiniboia Agricultural Society.

REGINA, 10th September, 1891.”





### THE DISTRICT OF SASKATCHEWAN.

Saskatchewan, lying north of Assiniboia, is the largest and most central of the four Provisional Districts, which were carved out of the Territories by the Dominion Parliament in 1882. Its area is 106,700 square miles. In shape it is an oblong parallelogram, which extends from Nelson River, Lake Winnipeg, and the western boundary of Manitoba, on the east, to the 112th degree of west longitude on the west, and lies between, or, rather, slightly overlaps, the 52nd and 55th parallels of north latitude. It is almost centrally divided by the main Saskatchewan River, which is altogether within the district, and by its principal branch, the North Saskatchewan, most of whose navigable length lies within its boundaries. It includes in the south a small proportion of the great plains, and in its general superficial features may be described as a mixed prairie and wooded region, abounding in water and natural hay, and well suited by climate and soil for the raising of wheat, horned cattle and sheep. It may, in fact, be described as the Ontario of the North-West, its prairies corresponding to the cleared portions of that province, whilst its timber areas to the north give it a like value in the industrial future. It is the wheat-growing district, too, which lies nearest to Hudson's Bay; and, like Ontario, its boundaries may be extended northward, so as to make it a maritime province, and a vast entrepôt for interior trade. Its climate may be briefly described as corresponding to that of Manitoba, with the exception of the great winter storms, called blizzards, which are unknown throughout a great portion of its limits. Owing to the deflection of the Canadian Pacific Railway this great region has remained comparatively dormant and unknown since 1882. But in previous years the presumption was that that great national highway would pass through it, and hence a number of settlements were formed on both branches of the Saskatchewan, which, in spite of remoteness from railway transport, constantly thrived, and increased solely upon internal sources, until overgrowth made a railway outlet and connection with the eastern markets a necessity. To meet the pressing wants of these communities the Government, in 1889, came to the assistance of one of the chartered railways, whose projected line extended from Regina to Prince Albert, a distance of 250 miles, and by the 1st of October 1890 the rails were laid, and before the close of the year the road was completed and in full working order between these two towns. Next year railway communication will probably be extended to Battleford, thus supplying all the existing communities on the Saskatchewan with an outlet. Other great regions of unbounded fertility lie to the south and south-east of the Saskatchewan, however, regions which would long ago have been opened up for settlement had the Manitoba and North-Western Railway fallen at the first into the hands of an energetic company. This road starts from Portage la Prairie, and penetrates in a north-westerly direction, bisecting a magnificent country all the way to Prince Albert, which is its future terminus. Unfortunately, however, only about 200 miles of this important line have been constructed, though it is one of the oldest charters in the North-West, and though a large settlement was formed at Carrot River many years ago on the faith of its extension. These settlers are now justly insisting upon the fulfilment of the charter obligations of the company, whose systematic violation of them is a scandal. The public interest being now aroused, there can be little doubt that the air-line connection which the completion of this road will give between Winnipeg and the Saskatchewan will soon be an accomplished fact, and that a large tide of immigration will follow to fill up and fructify the great country which lies between the Prince Albert Settlements and Manitoba. Another great railway projection, which to the Territories is the most important of all, is that of the line from Prince Albert to Churchill, on Hudson's Bay. The whole eastern and western world is now becom-



ing conscious, not only of the pressing necessity, but of the vast importance of this road from a trade and military point of view. To Great Britain it is a matter of Imperial interest, for whilst both the Suez Canal and the Canadian-Pacific Railway might be easily closed by an enemy, the Hudson's Bay route would give her an impregnable military highway, with only 1,700 miles of railway from bay to coast, all of which would be situated far beyond the American boundary, and in a defensible country lying north of two immense rivers. But we must pass from railways built or projected to other matters of interest.

The principal towns of the district are Prince Albert, Battleford, Stobart, or Duck Lake, Saskatoon and Kinistino. Duck Lake, in the Batoche district, is about 40 miles west of Prince Albert, and lies between the north and south branches of the Saskatchewan, here about 18 miles apart. This rising town is surrounded by a magnificent wheat-growing country, the prairies, particularly to the west of it, being of great extent, very level, fertile and easily worked. It is situated directly on the line of the Regina and Prince Albert Railway, which has a section here, and promises to become an important grain centre in the near future. Mr. Hilliard Mitchell has his large ranche near this town, where are to be seen a noble herd of Polled Angus cattle, and the only band of Kyloes in Saskatchewan. He contributes to this publication a description of the Batoche district, and nothing more may be added here with regard to it.

Battleford, the former capital of the Territories, is beautifully situated on the left bank of the North Saskatchewan, 150 miles west of Prince Albert, and is a station of the North-West Mounted Police, and a place of increasing importance. Grain is growing in abundance on its surrounding prairies, timber is plentiful to the north and west, and grist and saw-mills find profitable employment in supplying the needs of a growing settlement. The oldest newspaper in the Territories, the Battleford *Herald*, a well-edited sheet, was started, and still issues here, and some of the largest importing houses of the interior have their headquarters in this enterprising town. The reader will peruse with interest the valuable information regarding Battleford district furnished for this pamphlet by Mr. James Klinkskill, M.L.A., who is an extensive merchant there, and intimately acquainted with the region he describes.

Saskatoon, another centre of settlement in the district, is a creation of the Temperance Colonization Company. The railway station has been placed upon the opposite or north bank of the river, and it is likely that an enterprising town will spring up there. On the plains south of Saskatoon there are some large stock ranches.

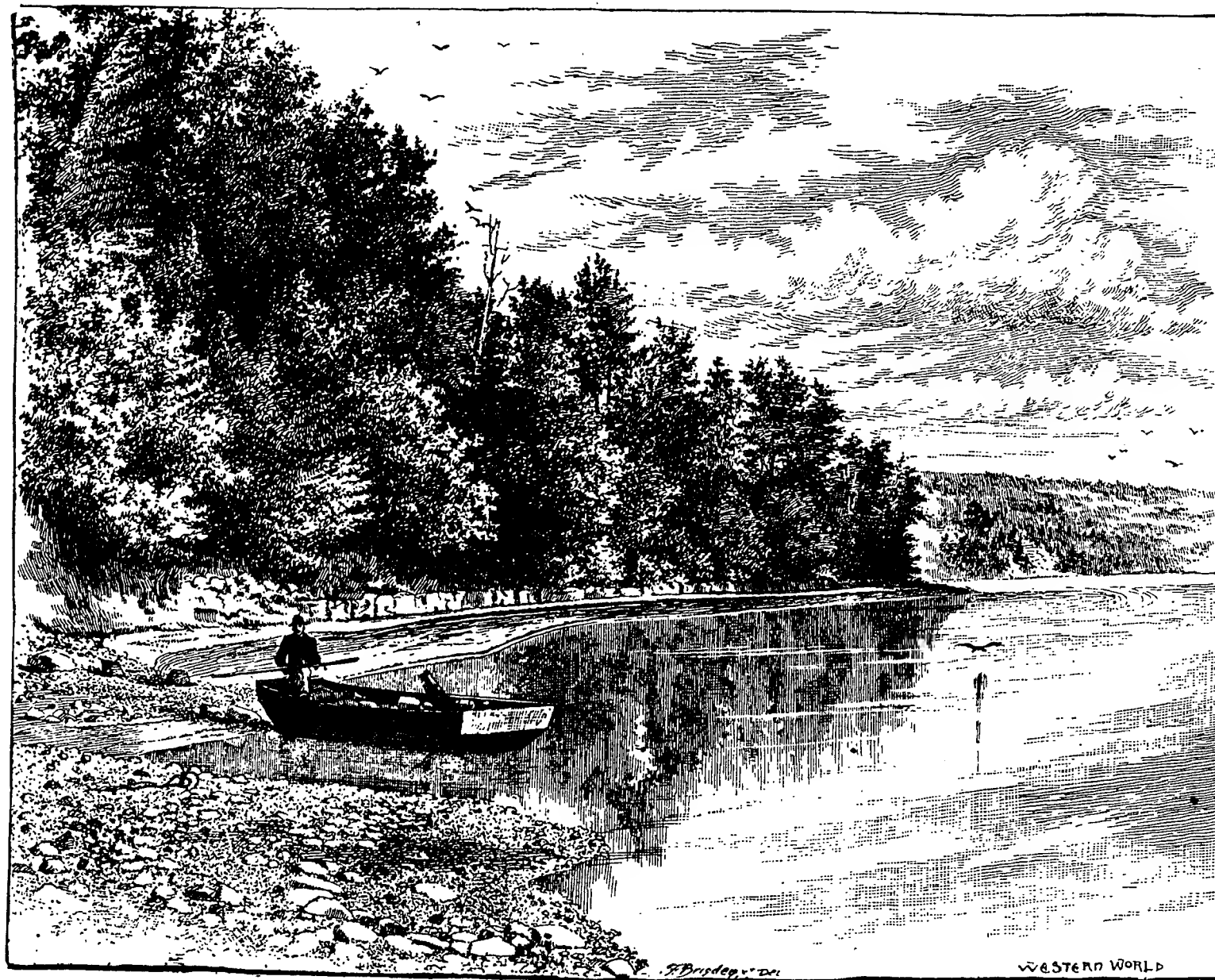
Kinistino is in its infancy, and must only be spoken of, as yet, in connection with the unrivalled country around it. It lies about 40 miles south-east of Prince Albert, and from the crossing of the South Branch eastward, and indeed in all directions—from Puckahn to Fort à la Corne, from the Birch Hills, Carrot River and the Waterhen Lake to the Hoodoo country and beyond, is one vast expanse of rich soil luxuriant grass and convenient timber. The extension of the Manitoba and North-West Railway will convert this great region into a garden, and then Kinistino will speedily rise into importance, and take its place with the Portage la Prairies and the Brandons of Manitoba. The reader is referred to the description of the Kinistino district furnished by Mr. James Hoey, M.L.A., a farmer who has resided there for years, and who believes that it has a great future before it.

Prince Albert, the principal town and capital of Saskatchewan, is situated on the river terraces, which extend beneath a lofty bluff on the left bank of the North Saskatchewan River, and is in the very heart of the future Province. Immediately to the north begins the forest country which reaches towards Hudson's Bay, but, elsewhere, is surrounded by fine rolling prairies, in some places somewhat hilly and dotted in all directions with "islands" of timber, and lakes or ponds of fresh water. The Saskatchewan was first explored by the renowned Chevalier de la Verendryé towards the middle of the last century. It is said that he ascended the river to its forks, and thence followed up the North Branch to the existing site of Prince Albert, where he established a post placing it on one of the islands



opposite the present town, probably for security, against attack by the savages. Numerous old Indian graves attest that the Prince Albert flat must in early days have been a meeting place of the Indians, owing, no doubt, to its easy landings and to its large area of camping ground, but more, perhaps, to its central situation, for the Indians had a keen eye to convenience, and their ancient rallying points are invariably the sites of white men's cities of to-day. These features commended the spot to the subsequent founder of the Mission of Prince Albert in 1866, the late Mr. Nisbett, around whose farm has extended within recent years what is now the well known town of Prince Albert. Milling facilities, the primary requisites of every new settlement, were added in 1874, and other mills followed, with so speedy an increase of population and industries that had any outlet been furnished for surplus productions, a large export trade would have been developed. But railways being withheld, production naturally languished, and was confined to the supply of local demand. Nothing but the stimulus of a ready market will induce even good farmers to cultivate largely; and that even the bare promise of a market will stimulate production was amply shown at Prince Albert in 1882, when a projected railway set every farmer on the spur. The production of wheat increased 300 fold in a single year. But the railway scheme fell through, and with it the farmer's hopes. His surplus proved to be a burden rather than a blessing; and lack of storage and a market led to the waste of much valuable grain. Since then production has done little more than to keep pace with the local demand. Farmers have turned their attention more to stock-raising than to wheat and until this year, 1890, not a bushel of Saskatchewan grain has ever found an eastern market. For even the local trade, engendered by a large settlement, has been the means of wonderful progress. The settlers of Prince Albert are well housed. Schools are established in all directions, and the town has grown to large proportions. Many places depend upon railways, either for their origin or advancement. But Prince Albert is a natural centre of trade and industry, and though 500 miles north-west of Winnipeg, and denied a railway outlet until this year, has yet grown rapidly, and has long been a distributing centre. It may be described as occupying at once the middle distance of the fertile belt, and of a great continental river—the Saskatchewan—outrivalling, as regards the extent and value of the country it drains, the St. Lawrence itself. It will, probably, be the point of departure from the great wheat belt for tidewater; for though 500 miles north-west of Winnipeg, it is yet nearer Churchill than that city, and Churchill is the true harbour of Hudson's Bay. The largest ocean vessels can sail directly into the Churchill River, which, by a narrow entrance, encloses as commodious and safe a harbour as St. John's. No lightering is required; and this significant fact will, when impending developments have taken place, very speedily extinguish York Factory, Port Nelson, and all other rivals on the western main as points of shipment for the grain of the Saskatchewan. One or more comparatively short lines of rail will yet carry the largest proportion of wheat of the fertile belt from Prince Albert to Churchill, where it will be unloaded directly into the ocean steamers.

The railway from Regina to Prince Albert is completed, and as the attention of the Eastern world is now largely drawn to the region, the intending settlers will be interested in knowing what milling and other business facilities exist in the town. There are two large flour mills, one a rolling mill in full working order and the other in process of construction. There are three saw mills, one of which can work off 30,000 feet per diem, and the other two probably as much more. In connection with these are sash and door factories, so that all requirements for the present are easily met. Two doctors and five lawyers represent the legal and medical professions. There are a brick courthouse and gaol, a resident Judge, Sheriff, &c., Dominion Land Agent, Crown Timber Agent, Homestead Inspector, and several other officials; and here, too, is a strong detachment of the Mounted Police, whose barracks occupy a commanding situation, and are the finest, with the exception of those at Regina, in the Territories. There are two newspapers, several hotels, two private banks, representatives of all the trades, and nearly a score of merchants. Prince Albert is incorporated and taxation is low. Building lots have, so far, been



SCENE ON THE SASKATCHEWAN.





sold at very reasonable rates, prices varying from \$25 to \$400 each, according to situation. Real estate is very largely divided up, and almost every citizen owns more or less of it, most of the residents being occupants of their own property. Electric light is already contracted for by the town, and will go into operation next summer. Telegraphic communication was established some years ago by the Dominion Government, and the telephone is in use in all the principal offices. Another telegraph line is built along the Regina and Prince Albert Railway, and is now in operation as part of the Canadian Pacific Railway telegraph system. A line of large steamers plies during the summer season upon the river, and there are thus concentrated at Prince Albert all the appliances of modern civilization, where, but a few years ago, the Indian and the bison were monarchs of the scene. The description of the Prince Albert district appended is furnished by Mr. William Plaxton, M.L.A., one of the best practical farmers in Saskatchewan. This gentleman has been for years a painstaking and intelligent experimenter in the district. It was he who produced the sample of Ladoga wheat referred to in the "Introduction" to this pamphlet, which aroused so much interest in Winnipeg; and his paper should be perused with attention, as it is matter which is carefully weighed, and gives in plain terms the results of close observation and a large experience. The article, too, on sheep-raising, is written by a gentleman who has a thorough knowledge of the subject—Mr. James MacArthur, of Prince Albert—the pioneer, it may be said, of the large sheep industry in the district. Though not the first to bring sheep into it, he was the first to do so on an extensive scale, and to give thought and judgment to the increase of his flock, which is now the largest in Saskatchewan, and indicates by its healthy and rapid increase the great future which is before the industry. The opinion of this gentleman, based not only upon his own success but upon that of others who have followed him, is distinctly this: That Saskatchewan is a first rate region for sheep, and would infallibly become a rich country through this industry alone. The attention of the reader is now directed to the replies given to series of exhaustive questions addressed by the territorial executive, to the various gentlemen referred to in the foregoing paragraphs. These correspondents are old settlers, and are well-known, responsible men in the district of Saskatchewan, two of them farmers and all of them members of the Legislative Assembly of the Territories. These gentlemen have confined their statements as much as possible to bare facts, in order to meet the limits of a publication like this; but all of them will be happy to answer any inquiries which may be addressed to them by mail upon points in which the reader feels interested and about which he would like to receive more extended information.

Their correspondence, which refers, of course, to the prairie region, covers a great portion of the ground, and is grouped under heads with their respective sub-sections.

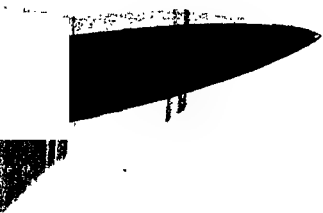
Saskatchewan is represented in the Dominion Parliament by D. A. Macdowall, Esq., M.P.

## ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF BATOCHE, SASKATCHEWAN.

By HILLYARD MITCHELL, Esq., M.L.A.

### AREA AND GENERAL DESCRIPTIONS.

Area, 4,752 square miles; well adapted for agriculture and stock-raising. Land mostly rolling prairie, with numerous small fresh water lakelets, and timber plentiful. Both branches of the Saskatchewan River run through it. The townships in Ranges 1 to 2, west of 3rd Meridian, are mostly bush, whilst all the townships from 35 to the South Saskatchewan are chiefly prairie, but there is still a great deal of small wood on all of them. That portion between the two rivers, as indeed all south of the North Saskatchewan, is well adapted for grain-growing, but a great deal answers well for mixed farming, and that portion lying in Townships 45, 46 and 47, Ranges 1 to 11, west 3rd Meridian, is well adapted for mixed farming and ranching. Soil is generally a black, sandy loam, with clay and sand, and clay or sand sub-soil.



2

I have already named the rivers which drain this district. Both are adapted to commerce and manufacturing pursuits. Lakes and ponds are frequent, but not so numerous as to cut up the country. Abundance of hay and wood for all purposes.

#### CLIMATE, ETC.

The climate is one of the best in the world—very healthy, entirely free from endemic and epidemic diseases. I know of no other country having a climate to compare with this. Average summer temperature I think about 70° Fahr.; winter 10°—probably not so low.

Two rivers and several lakes, such as Duck Lake, Muskeg Lake; a good deal of forest; very slight chinooks in winter.

Spring generally opens 20th March to 1st April; seeding time first week in April. Harvest 1st August. Winter generally sets in about end of November and breaks up at end of March or beginning of April.

Settlers may engage profitably in lumbering in winter, also in fishing, freighting and other out-door work. Our winters permit of outdoor employment. Settlers work every day where there is anything to do, and are never deterred by cold. We never have blizzards. We have severe cold, but only for a few days in a winter, and some winters we never have very great cold.

#### CROPS, ETC.,

Only speak from observation and information. Wheat of all kinds, and oats and barley of all varieties, are raised here. Pease, potatoes, roots, of all kinds, and other vegetables, grow to great perfection. The soil is well adapted to raising all kinds of crops, and so is the climate. In ordinary favourable years the following would be the yield per acre:—

Wheat .....	30 to 40 bushels.
Oats .....	60 to 80 do
Barley .....	40 to 60 do
Pease .....	
Potatoes .....	400 bushels.
Turnips .....	600 do

Occasionally crops are injured in localities by frost, but I am convinced that with good farming such difficulty can be obviated, as I know farmers who have escaped frost every year since 1876.

#### STOCK-RAISING, RANCHING, ETC.

Parts of it are well adapted to stock-raising. Sufficient grass and hay in great richness and luxuriance to make stock-raising a success.

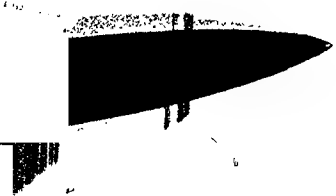
I believe that Durham Shorthorns and Highland cattle thrive best. All breeds of horses do well, and the same may be said of sheep. The loss in winter, *nil*. I never lose on account of the rigour of the climate. Horses frequently winter out; do well, though in the open and self-fed. The snow is never very deep—not over 12 inches—and never becomes hard or crusted, so that horses are always able to get at the grass. Cattle also winter out and do well.

#### DAIRY FARMING, ETC.

Land is to be found in almost every Township favourable to such pursuits, but perhaps north of the North Saskatchewan and south of the South Saskatchewan River affords the best field for such operations. There are no cheese or butter factories in this district. All grasses here are rich and luxuriant, and there is abundance of native hay for winter fodder. Water pure generally; nights never hot. Home demand sufficient for the supply at present.

#### FUEL SUPPLY, ETC.

Supply chiefly, if not altogether, of wood, the most common kinds being poplar, fir, spruce, tamarac and jack-pine. All these woods are within convenient



reach of all settlers, and in sufficient abundance; price, \$1.25 to \$2.50 per cord, delivered. No coal mines are worked in the district, but there are good prospects that coal exists.

## VACANT LANDS, ETC.

There is vacant land in every township in the district. Soil good black loam and sandy loam. Only one railway, but much good land within 12 miles of it on either side, and markets handy. Plenty of land to homestead or purchase. Price of wild land \$2 to \$3 per acre, and improved farms \$4 to \$10 per acre.

## BUILDING MATERIALS, ETC.

Abundant supply of stone, and abundance of wood for building and fencing.

## MINERAL RESOURCES.

None working. Gold is found in the rivers, and coal and iron are believed to exist, but no effort has ever been made to ascertain if in payable quantities or if workable.

## WATER, WELLS, ETC.

Water abundant for every purpose. Digging of wells attended with no uncertainty. Average depth to water about twenty feet. Quality first-class generally, sometimes inclined to be alkaline, but only in localities.

## MARKETS, PRICES, APPROACHING RAILWAYS.

We have not only railway facilities, but a large home demand as well.

Wheat, \$1; oats, \$1; potatoes 60c., but at present \$2 per bushel. Wheat is generally 90c.; oats, 40c.; butter, 25c. to 35c. per lb.; eggs, 25c. per dozen.

The Regina and Prince Albert road is now open, and the Manitoba and North-Western is fast approaching. The Great North-West Central is under construction, and we have good prospects of a line to Hudson's Bay in the near future.

## EDUCATION, SCHOOLS, ETC.

Schools are sufficiently numerous to be within reasonable distance of children's homes. Education is got of a sound nature, and at small cost to the tax-payer.

## CHURCHES, ETC.

Well supplied. We have numbers of visiting clergymen and of visiting or resident laymen.

## GAME, FISH, ETC.

We have abundance of game, and fish is plentiful. Elk deer, bears, wolves, foxes and other fur-bearing animals abound; all kinds of duck, geese, grebes, plover, snipe, grouse and numerous migratory songsters and predatory birds, etc., etc.

## FRUIT CULTURE, FLOWERS, ETC.

The district is very well adapted for fruit raising. Native fruits are gooseberry, raspberry, strawberry, cranberry in three varieties, Saskatoonberry, black and red cherries, currants in several varieties. Flowers are in endless profusion. The orders compositæ, cruciferae, rosaceae, liliacæ, etc., are well represented.

## ROADS, BRIDGES, ETC.

Our roads are all naturally good and do not require much labour on them, and bridges are built where they are required at a small cost.

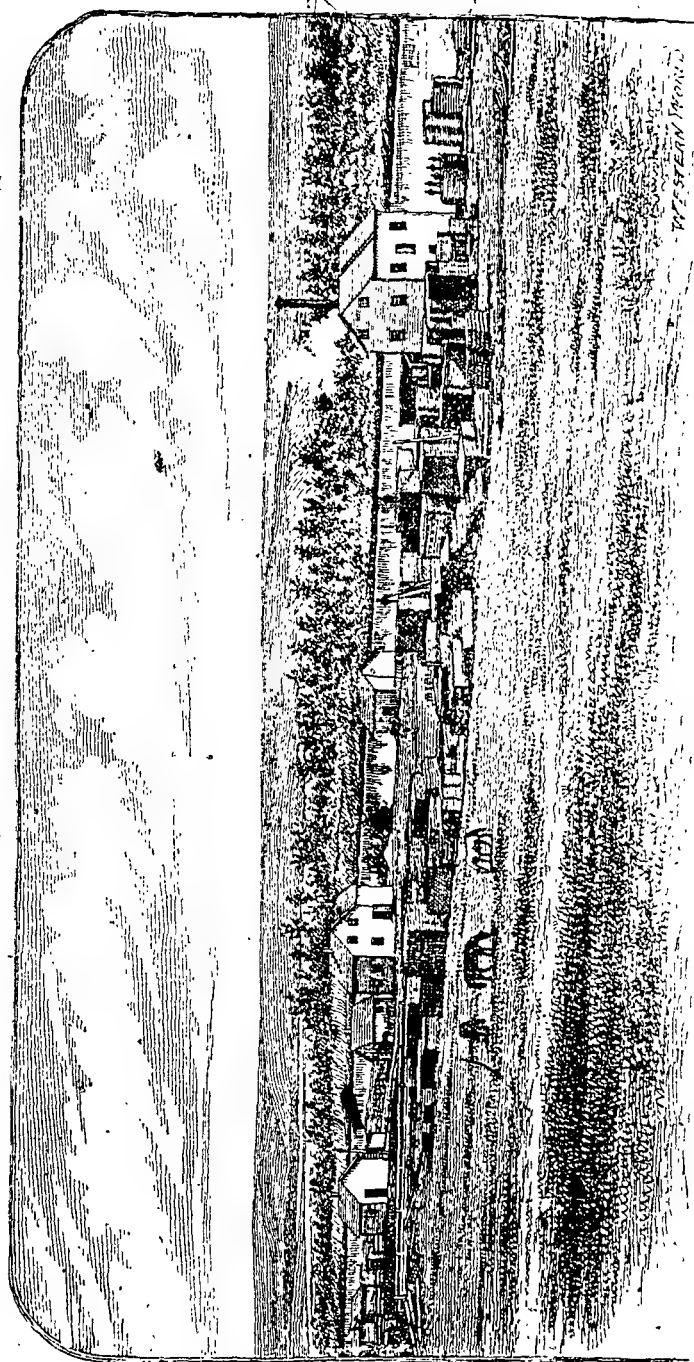
## AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, SEED GRAIN, CATTLE.

Everything required can be had at reasonable prices in the district.

## POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC FACILITIES.

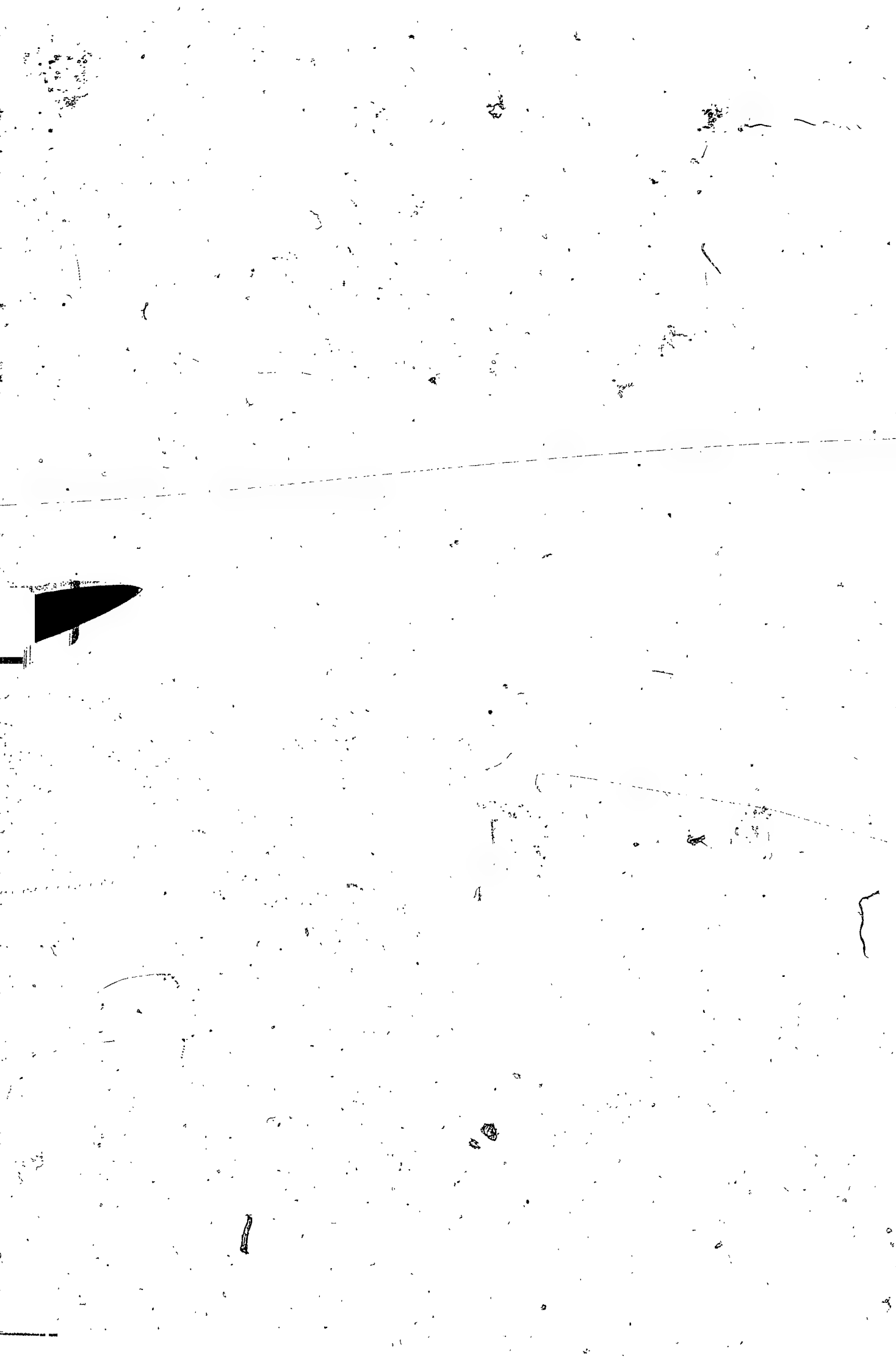
Sufficient facilities for present requirements.





ON REGINA AND PRINCE ALBERT RAILWAY.

WESTERN FRONT





## ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF BATTLEFORD, SASKATCHEWAN.

JAMES KLINKSKILL, ESQ., M.L.A.

## AREA AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

The district is comprised within from Range 7, west of 3rd Principal Meridian, to Range 8, west of 4th Principal Meridian. From Township 30 to Township 40, about 65,000 square miles. Area too large for description in detail. On southern boundary is rolling prairie with large lakes; not much timber. Within 25 miles of Battle River timber in bluffs commences, and is found all along the course of the Battle and Saskatchewan Rivers. Timber consists of poplar and birch and is heavy enough for all building purposes. It is plentiful, but not in such quantities as to interfere with farming. Between Saskatchewan and Battle Rivers the land is of a fine rolling character, with many creeks and lakes. North of Saskatchewan River is also rolling, with plenty of timber for all farm purposes; also, water in abundance. About twenty miles due north from the town of Battleford is what is known as the Jack-fish Lake country, celebrated for its hay bottoms and watered by clear running creeks. The supply of hay in this part of the district is unsurpassed in the whole country, and it is well supplied with bluffs for shelter for the cattle.

Grain has been grown with success in all parts of the district, except along the southern boundary, where there is no settlement yet. All the settlements so far have been near the two rivers. The soil varies from black loam to a sandy loam, all suited for early maturing of crops. The scenery of the parts along the river is unsurpassed for beauty of landscape. Many knolls and verdant glades are interspersed with gleaming rivers.

## CLIMATE, ETC.

The climate is healthy and free from endemic or epidemic diseases. It is bracing and salubrious, and is undoubtedly the finest climate on earth for constitutionally healthy people. Average summer temperature, about 60°; winter, about 4°. The reason of the equability of the temperature in summer has not yet been thoroughly investigated, but the water stretches may be found to account for it. The effects of chinook winds are not felt to such an extent in winter as to cause a thaw.

Spring opens about beginning of April. Seeding generally completed by 20th May. Third week in August is usually the time when harvest begins. Snow falls early in November and does not go till end of March. During winter settlers are generally employed in getting out rails for fencing, logs for building purposes and fuel, and in attending to cattle and doing work which cannot be undertaken during busy seasons of spring or summer. (During last winter, 1889-90, which was exceptionally severe, a farmer here who had a wood contract from the North-West Mounted Police lost only two days on account of the weather).

## CROPS, ETC.

Crops consist of wheat, oats, barley and potatoes. Turnips and all kinds of vegetables are raised successfully. Normal yield of wheat (Red Fyfe), about 30 bushels to the acre in favourable seasons; 1 to 1½ bushels sown to the acre. Oats, about 60 bushels, from three sown to the acre. Barley has not been grown extensively, there being no demand for any quantity of this cereal in the district, but it has always given a good yield in favourable seasons.

## STOCK-RAISING, RANCHING, ETC.

This district is well adapted for stock-raising on a moderate scale, such as would be suitable for mixed farming. Cattle must be fed, and should be sheltered three months to four months every winter. For bands of from 300 to 500 it is unsurpassed. Horses winter out well, and can therefore be kept in large bands.



Sheep require same care as cattle, and are better in small flocks. Long-wool sheep are recommended, their coats are warm, and no rain falling during winter no damage arises from the animals getting wet and then freezing; they weigh more than short-wool sheep, so the loss in wool is more than compensated for by the extra weight of mutton. Draught horses sell best.

As dairy farming is considered best for this country, cattle yielding most butter are recommended.

#### DAIRY FARMING, ETC.

Any portion of this district will answer all the requirements for dairy farming. In and on the slopes of the Eagle Hills or the south of Saskatchewan would be most suitable, owing to the luxuriance of the grass and prevalence of springs. North of Saskatchewan there is abundance of grass in many places, particularly in the vicinity of Jackfish and Turtle Mountain. Pure water in abundance everywhere. Nights are cool. Home demand has always exceeded the supply, so that dairy products have had to be imported. Want of railway communication has retarded any exportation, had any been ready for export. This, it is expected, will be remedied in a very short time.

#### FUEL SUPPLY, ETC.

Fuel consists of wood, which can be had in abundance in all parts of the district, except in the extreme south.

Cordwood sells in town at from \$2.50 to \$3.50 a cord, according to quality.

Coal indications are plentiful, but no prospecting has yet been made, owing to abundance of wood fuel, and there are no facilities as yet for exporting coal.

#### VACANT LANDS, ETC.

Abundance of vacant land in all parts, suited for arable, mixed, or dairy farming. Lands can be purchased at from \$2.50 per acre, but no demand, on account of amount of vacant lands to be had from Government free.

#### BUILDING MATERIAL, ETC.

Freestone is plentiful; can be quarried without any difficulty. Limestone plentiful enough for all requirements of burning is found in boulders. Wood for building plentiful and easily procured.

#### MINERAL RESOURCES.

No prospecting has been gone into yet. Indications favourable in several parts of the district.

#### WATER, WELLS, ETC.

Well supplied with water, on surface. Well-digging easy and successful, wherever tried, water being found from nine to twenty feet, according to location, all of excellent quality.

#### MARKETS, PRICES, ETC.

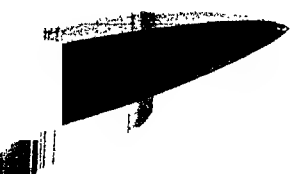
Home market has always up to now absorbed all products; prices have never gone below the import price which, on account of waggon transport, has always been high.

#### EDUCATION, SCHOOLS, ETC.

The district has good schools of both Protestant and Roman Catholic denominations in the settled parts.

#### CHURCHES, ETC.

We have Episcopal and Presbyterian churches; also Roman Catholic Mission.



## GAME, FISH, ETC.

Small game very abundant, also fish. There is probably more game (of the larger kind) in this district than in any in the Territories. Deer, moose, elk, bears and antelope chief representatives of the larger game. Ducks, geese, swans, sand-hill cranes, chicken, partridge and rabbits are abundant.

## FRUIT CULTURE, FLOWERS, ETC.

All sorts of small fruits grow wild in great luxuriance, as also raspberries, strawberries, high and low-bush cranberries, gooseberry, service berries, and others of less importance.

Natural flowers too numerous to enumerate.

## ROADS, BRIDGES, ETC.

The district is well developed by roads and bridges; these are continually being improved and extended. Many of the main trails have been in use for half a century.

## AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, SEED GRAIN.

There is no difficulty in procuring all necessary supplies and implements for all farming purposes.

## POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH FACILITIES.

The Government telegraph line goes right through the district, having stations about every 50 miles. Weekly mail at present, with prospects of greater facilities.

## ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF KINISTINO.

By JAMES HOEY, Esq., M.L.A.

Area—16,784 square miles, more or less, being all that part of the Provisional District of Saskatchewan lying south of the 3rd Meridian and south of Township 47 and north of Township 34.

A better idea of the area, whose leading features are forest, bush or prairie, can be had from surveyors' reports than from any other source. The part of the district lying east of Range 18 is for the most part forest. There is very little forest west of that line, except along the South Saskatchewan River and in the Birch Hills. The Birch Hills, Townships 40 to 45, and Ranges 21 to 26, are pretty well covered with bush. All the rest of the district is level prairie and grazing or hay land.

Nearly all of the district west of Range 18 is well adapted to grain-growing and to mixed farming. Townships 38 to 45 and Ranges 19 to 22, west of 2nd Meridian, are well suited to ranching. Of course wheat and other grain can be grown in the same townships, but there are portions of some townships that are better for ranching and mixed farming. The soil is generally a black loam, but in places sandy loam, with clay and sand subsoil.

The only river which runs through this district is the south branch of the Saskatchewan which traverses Townships 45 and 46, Ranges 26 to 28, west 2nd Meridian. It is suited for purposes of navigation. The Carrot River flows north-easterly from Township 45, Range 21, west 2nd Meridian, and may be utilized part of the year for milling purposes; small lakes are numerous. The district is bounded by Lake Winnipeg on the east and part of Lake Winnipegosis lies in the district. The country is, generally speaking, flat. The Birch Hills, before referred to, rise to a height of about 100 feet above the level of the prairie, and there are other hills in the eastern part of the district, but that part has not yet been surveyed and is almost unknown.

## CLIMATE, ETC.

Climate is very healthy and free from all diseases. It is better than the climate of other countries, but more nearly resembles Manitoba than any other. Summer about 75° Fahr., winter 15° Fahr. Numerous small lakes, forests, etc., but



no chinooks, except very slight ones. Spring opens in March; seeding, 1st of April; harvest, end of July or beginning of August. Winter generally sets in about the end of November and breaks up about the 20th of March.

Our winter employment is teaming and lumbering. It permits many outdoor pursuits; anything that is to be done can be done without discomfort from climate.

#### CROPS, ETC.

Wheat, oats and barley are the principal grain crops heretofore raised, and the soil and climate are most suitable to raising them, as well as root crops of all kinds. Vegetables do well and come to great perfection. In an ordinarily favourable year wheat yields 30 bushels per acre, barley 40 to 50, oats 60 to 80, potatoes as high as 400, turnips as high as 600.

There is sometimes danger of frost in August, but it generally comes too late to do any damage to grain, and with good cultivation there need never be any danger on that score. Even in very dry sections there is sufficient moisture in the soil to ensure a good crop.

#### STOCK-RAISING, RANCHES, ETC.

Some portions of the district are admirably adapted for stock-raising. Abundance of grass and hay of great richness and luxuriance can be had at a trifling cost, and there is plenty of good water all over. Stock-raising has been carried on in the district for the past ten years, and has proved an unqualified success, and a most profitable industry. Horses winter out and do well; there is never any loss to stock through cold or want of food. Blizzards are unknown. Durham and Polled Angus are the breeds of cattle best suited to the climate; any breed of horses and sheep do well.

#### DAIRY FARMING, ETC.

There are no cheese and butter factories in existence, except a small cheese factory at Carrot River, Township 45, Range 31, west 2nd Meridian. These industries can be carried on successfully in the great majority of townships west of Range 18. Grass is luxuriant and rich, and there is abundance of native hay for winter fodder. The water is pure and plentiful and nights always cool. At present the home demand is equal to the supply. Now that we have a railway we shall be able to reach any foreign market.

#### FUEL SUPPLY, ETC.

There is abundance of wood for fuel within convenient reach of settlers all over; it costs about \$2 per cord, but may be had off Government lands by paying 25c. timber dues and drawing it home. There is no coal used. No coal mines are worked, and it is not known whether any coal exists, but there are signs that coal underlies the district. No borings have been made.

#### VACANT LANDS, ETC.

Vacant lands are to be had in every Township. Land open to sale may be purchased at \$2 and \$2.50 per acre from the Government. Improved farms are held at from \$5 to \$10 per acre. The Qu'Appelle, Long Lake and Saskatchewan Railway, which is now built into Prince Albert, runs up from Regina through the north-west corner of the district. Prince Albert is our market town, and is six miles north of this district.

#### BUILDING MATERIAL, ETC.

Wood, principally tamarac, pine, spruce, fir, balsam of gilead, poplar and cedar. Plenty of it for all purposes and easy of access.

#### MINERAL RESOURCES.

No minerals worked as yet, but coal is supposed to exist in the eastern part of the district, and lead is also believed to be there, as well as silver and gold.





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WATER; WELLS, ETC.

Digging wells is not attended with uncertainty. Average depth, say ten feet. In most places water can be reached near the surface. The quality of the well water generally good.

## MARKETS, PRICES, RAILWAYS, ETC.

There is no town in the district yet. We go to Prince Albert, on the North Saskatchewan, for supplies. Wheat is now worth 90c. per bushel, which is about the average price. Oats sell generally at 40c.; potatoes, 30c.; butter, 25c.; eggs, 20c. per dozen.

The above were the prices in 1890.

Qu'Appelle, Long Lake and Saskatchewan Railway has reached Prince Albert, and the Manitoba and North-Western Railway, when completed, will run through the best part of this district.

## EDUCATION, SCHOOLS, ETC.

Good educational facilities, and the cost to the settler is small; the Government pays most of the salary of the teacher if he has a certificate.

## CHURCHES, ETC.

There are seven or eight churches, and in out-of-the-way places there are generally visiting or resident clergymen, or laymen, who hold service.

## GAME, FISH, ETC.

Abundance of feathered game, summer or winter, all over the district. Moose, and deer, and bears, are also quite plentiful, especially in the Eastern Townships. Good supply of fish, chiefly sturgeon, trout, whitefish, pike, jackfish, etc. Wolves, foxes and other fur-bearing animals are becoming scarce. Water fowl plentiful, and includes geese, four kinds, about twenty five kinds of ducks, snipe, plover, etc.

## FRUIT CULTURE, ETC.

Wild fruit does well. Principal native fruits are strawberry, gooseberry, raspberry, huckleberry, Saskatoon berries, high and low-bush cranberries, four or five species of currants, black or red cherries, and wild plums, sand cherries, etc. Wild flowers grow in great profusion. The chief orders represented are compositae, convulvulaceae, siliaceae, cruciferae, roseaceae, etc. Fruits, I believe, would thrive well in the district. Imported currants do well.

## ROADS, BRIDGES, ETC.

Yes; the roads are good naturally, and there are ferries at every convenient crossing on the river.

## AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, SEED GRAIN, CATTLE, ETC.

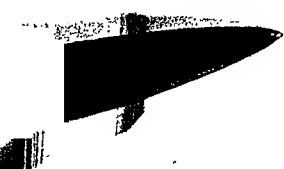
Everything that a farmer requires can be purchased at Prince Albert and in the district, at reasonable prices.

## POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH FACILITIES.

Postal facilities are very fair, and are steadily improving. No telegraph station nearer than Prince Albert.

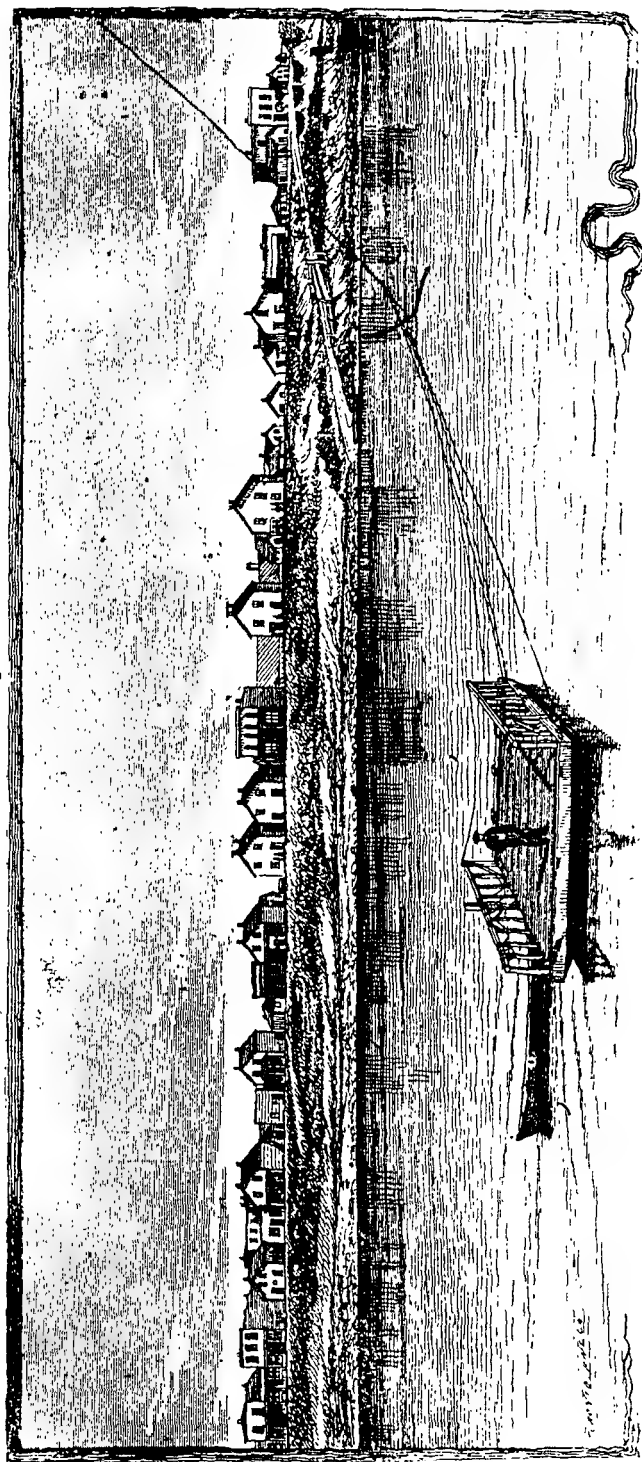
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PRINCE ALBERT.



## ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF PRINCE ALBERT, SASKATCHEWAN.

By WILLIAM FLAXTON, ESQ., M.L.A.

The area of Prince Albert Electoral District will be found very difficult to define, as it embraces a very large tract north of the north branch of the Saskatchewan River, much of which is unexplored, but the area will be nearly given by the Act defining its boundaries.

With the exception of "Shell River" country, all north of the river is composed of forest, and must soon become an immense lumbering district. The Shell River country is a large prairie, and, to those who favour grain-growing, one of the finest tracts in the world. It has an abundance of both building timber and firewood. To the south of the river the country is hilly, with numerous lakes and patches of poplar. The river flats on the banks of the Saskatchewan are now well settled, but to the south of those is a large area of country that is yet only sparsely settled. The Red Deer Creek runs from west to east through this tract, and on its banks are abundance of hay meadows. This tract has a park-like appearance, and, apart from the mountains, is one of the most picturesque in the North-West.

The Shell River country is among the most choice in the Territories for grain-growing. The country north of the river with this exception is adapted for lumbering, and the country south of the river is suitable for mixed farming. Some of our settlers are already ranching, and the country is well adapted for this. Some of these settlers go north of the river, where there are large hay meadows and stack immense quantities of hay for winter feed. The majority, however, find sufficient hay in their own neighbourhood. The soil is similar to that of the Red River valley, with this exception, that the subsoil is light, while that of the Red River valley has a heavy clay subsoil.

The Saskatchewan River is navigable during summer, and communication is thereby had with Edmonton, Battleford, Cumberland, Selkirk, Winnipeg and other points. Lakes, properly so called, are not as numerous as ponds are south of the river and sloughs are found both north and south. The latter yield plenty of hay for the farmers.

## CLIMATE, ETC.

There is no subject connected with our North-West upon which eastern people and Europeans have more mistaken conceptions than that of our climate. They labour under the impression that we are somewhere near the North Pole, while the fact is that Prince Albert is in the same latitude as Dublin, Liverpool and Berlin, and we are far south of the southernmost point in Scotland and some five hundred miles south of Stockholm and St. Petersburg. This injurious impression is being confirmed by the manner in which prairie fires are allowed to destroy our forest trees, and by the gratuitous advertising of fruits and grains from Northern Russia. The climate is an exceedingly healthy one, and seems to be entirely free from endemic diseases. Consumptives thrive here; some settlers here are men who were far gone in consumption before coming here. One case in particular deserves note. A young man whose case was pronounced hopeless tried a trip to Manitoba and the North-West, with the result that an immediate change set in and he is now quite strong.

The temperature ranges in summer from 45° to 90° in shade; winter from 0° to 50°.

Ponds and sloughs modify considerably the heat of summer, and where south-west winds prevail for a few days their effect is easily felt, especially in winter.

Winter ends in April.

Harvest begins about 1st September.

Winter generally sets in about the end of November. All the able-bodied men willing to work readily find employment. The sawmills of Messrs. Moore & Macdowall, Sanderson & Ballantyne, and C. Thompson, give employment to a large number of men getting out logs in winter. In no case have I known men willing to



work remain long idle either in winter or summer. The statement circulated by Goldwin Smith in behalf of the Toronto labour associations to the effect that farm labourers could not find employment steadily in Manitoba and the North-West was entirely wrong as applied to this district. Wages range from \$20 to \$25 and board per month, according to season and ability of men. I myself spent days trying to engage a man last summer, and could not get one until long after I had no need for him. Some of those who come here wish to find employment in town and will not accept work in country; this class had better stay in countries where there are poorhouses. Firewood in large quantity for the town is also cut across the river. Sometimes the navigation companies get their wood here. The Police require hay for from 75 to 50 horses the year around. Wood, beef, hay and other produce find a good market, so that any one out of employment can get work on his own account. Servant girls are in demand; wages from \$10 to \$15 per month. Chore boys cannot be had at any price; wages would be from \$10 to \$20, according to age and strength.

#### CROPS, ETC.

All the grains grown in Eastern Canada are raised here without trouble. The soil is an alluvial deposit, and, of course, so far has given good crops; roots and vegetables have flourished. An impression prevails in the East that there is great danger from frost. This bugbear is, in my opinion, nearly exploded. If the land is fall ploughed there is little danger. Late crops are nowhere in danger. Farmers here frequently sow late crops under the impression that if frozen it will be valuable as green feed in winter, and cattle prefer it to hay. In my opinion the only serious danger is from drought. With proper care the farmer will not be much the worse for frost; he will, I feel sure, get nine crops out of ten. But drought, such as that which prevailed in Manitoba last year and in Saskatchewan in 1884, cannot easily be averted. Only the very early-sown crops make good headway in such years. No land fairly prepared failed to give a good yield in any year yet, notwithstanding either drought or frost. The farmers have not as yet planted or sown large crops of roots, but where tried, turnips, carrots, mangel wurzels and potatoes grow abundantly. The poorest potato crop which we have had since I came here was in 1882 and in 1889, and it would have been considered a good yield in Ontario. A fair yield of wheat would be from 20 to 30 bushels per acre, of oats 40 to 50 bushels per acre, and barley 30 to 50 bushels per acre; flax, black or headless barley and rye are all grown, but I do not know what the average yield would be. Garden vegetables grow well, and if a good market were open would prove profitable; but as yet the vacant lots in town supply the greater part of its demands. In this connection, I may say that I have sometimes wondered how farmers whose land cost say \$50 per acre, and who must manure and fallow before cropping, ever make both ends meet, or why they try to do so when, with little work, and almost no expense for land, they might raise large crops here. We need not land now to crop, but oatmeal and grist mills to grind what we do raise. The advent of the railway this summer removes all danger of a market failing us.

#### STOCK-RAISING, RANCHING, ETC.

In this department it is my opinion that Saskatchewan excels. We have abundance of grass. The hilly nature of the country is suited for ranging, while the valleys supply hay. The animals seldom descend into the valleys, preferring the hillsides, so that hay is not destroyed by their pasturing. The only difficulty that we have to contend with as yet is that farmers, in their anxiety to increase their stock, seek to gather numbers regardless of quality, the result being that they have to keep, at the same expense for winter feeding, a herd not worth more than half what a graded herd would be worth. It is quite usual for ponies to winter out, and I have known cattle to come in in January in good shape from the prairie. West Highland and Galloway cattle would not need stabling in a well sheltered locality, and this, with their shaggy hides, should make them more valuable than any other cattle. The Durham is, however, the breed principally kept here, and they do well. Hides are now shipped to Winnipeg.





Sheep do exceptionally well and are as yet rather scarce. Little feed is required in winter; good stables are hurtful rather than helpful. One man can attend to about a thousand sheeps, with a little help during haying time. Woollen clothing will always be in demand in the country, but woollen mills are needed, and in this line there is a grand opening for someone with sufficient capital. The only breeds introduced so far are Leicester, Shropshire, Southdown and Merino grades. All of these succeed well, and multiply at a rate that will astonish the schoolboy in geometrical progression. Of these breeds the favourite seems to be the Shropshire, however, and I think that it will, perhaps, prove the most profitable. Horse-breeding is yet in its infancy, but the country is unquestionably well adapted for the business. Few good horses of any breed have yet been introduced, but the ones likely to find a ready market will be the larger roadster, animals that can travel over our heavy roads at a good rate, and, at the same time, prove themselves serviceable in front of a reaper, mower or plough. The Cleveland bay or Hackney coach would exactly fill the bill, the Cleveland bay especially.

## DAIRY FARMING, ETC.

The only drawback to dairy farming here is the want of a good cheese factory or creamery. There are several districts or settlements where a good factory could be supported. All the open country would be suitable for the purpose. Abundance of choice pasturage, hay and good water can be had the year around. The nights are always cool, even in the hottest weather, and settlers let their cows suckle their young just now, because we have only a local demand for milk and butter. The railway, however, will give us a ready market for butter. As yet cheese is not manufactured to any extent. Anyone accustomed to cheese-making would find an abundance of milk of the best quality, and a ready market for his produce. An ordinary settler's herd now numbers from ten to thirty cows, and these will, in a few years, be considerably increased. If, therefore, a factory were once started the only drawback would be hired help to milk. Owing to our isolated position, a large portion of our trading has been done in kind. Cash is a scarce commodity, and this alone prevents settlers from themselves starting factories on the co-operative plan. Settlers do not live so closely together as in the East, but can keep much larger herds.

## FUEL SUPPLY, ETC.

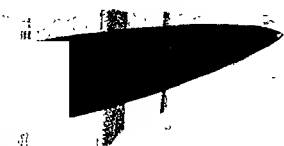
The fuel at present used is wood. Those near the river cross it in winter and draw spruce; but the settlers further back use poplar, which is an exceedingly good wood for the purpose. Coal is not known to exist in this Electoral District, but as there is an abundance of it at Edmonton, on the river banks, it will be obtainable, and at a moderate price, whenever desired. It can be readily shipped during the season of navigation. At the present time, however, there is an abundance of wood, and no effort has been made to import coal. Coal, I am informed by Dr. Porter, does certainly exist about six miles below the town in fair quantity, and only needs a little capital to work it.

## VACANT LANDS, ETC.

The Shell River country, north of this some 20 miles, is an immense tract of open prairie, and has as yet only three or four settlers. Homesteads can be obtained all through the settled parts of the country, however. These are not necessarily the culls that have been passed over by previous settlers, but are lands abandoned by speculators or cancelled for non-fulfilment of settlement duties, and are in some cases the best claims in the vicinity. Lands can be purchased at from \$2 to \$4 per acre, and some of these have considerable improvement. To those with means it will be found cheaper to buy improved farms than to homestead.

## BUILDING MATERIAL, ETC.

Plenty of wood for all purposes. Any quantity of stone can be had in either the north or south branch of the Saskatchewan, but there is none on the prairie. In



some parts, however, as in the Red Deer Hill district, large boulders of limestone have been found in abundance. These are underground and do not interfere with farm work.

#### MINERAL RESOURCES.

Iron unquestionably exists. A neighbour, who understands whereof he speaks, reports a mine near here that would yield 75 per cent. of iron. Other minerals are supposed to exist north of the river, but nothing definite is known of these. Gold supposed to have been washed from the mountains is found in the river in quantities that it is believed would yield fair working wages, but no real test has been made other than such as might be done by visiting miners for experimental purposes. A large bed of sulphate of soda about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 feet thick and covering several acres, has been discovered on the both sides of the river, but has not been developed.

#### WATER, WELLS, ETC.

Abundance of first-class water everywhere. Wells can be sunk anywhere with the certainty that water will be obtained at from 5 to 50 feet. The water in the lakes and ponds filter through the sandy subsoil into these wells.

#### MARKET PRICES, ETC.

Generally fair, but until this summer we have been isolated from the outside world, but expect a change with the advent of the railway which has now reached us. Ordinary prices are: Wheat, 75c. to \$1; oats, about the same as barley, viz., 50c. to 75c.; butter, 25c.; eggs, 20c. to 50c. In addition to the Regina and Long Lake Railway, which is now built to Prince Albert, we have a charter applied for to extend this line to connect with the Hudson's Bay Road. The M. & N. W. is heading this way, but does not seem to be pushed ahead very rapidly. The Northern Pacific Company are also understood to be prospecting with a view to building. As Prince Albert is the most important town in Saskatchewan Territory, and is located in the centre of it, it is likely to be the Capital of the future Province of Saskatchewan. We are several hundred miles nearer Churchill than Winnipeg, and hope that this will yet be the terminus of the Hudson's Bay Railway.

#### EDUCATION, SCHOOLS, ETC.

Wherever a few families are settled they can form a school district, which must not be more than five miles square, and start a school. The Government grant is large, and the expense to settlers is hardly felt. Then there are two sections reserved in every township (six miles square) for school purposes, which will in the near future provide a fund that will in all probability make the schools self-sustaining. In Prince Albert there are three Public graded schools, and a high school is also started. There are several denominational schools, besides a Roman Catholic convent. In the country districts nearly every part has now a school in operation. Many of the teachers are from Eastern Canada, and are experienced hands. Our school laws are largely borrowed from the older provinces, and, therefore, place our school system on a solid foundation at once. During the past season the expense in the school district in which I live, composed of 28 square miles, cost for a second-class teacher's salary less than \$11 per month, or 5 cents per quarter section (160 acres) of land. This school paid \$50 per month of salary, the balance being paid by Government.

#### CHURCHES, ETC.

In Prince Albert (Town) the following denominations have churches:—Roman Catholic, Episcopalian, Presbyterian and Methodist. Churches of these denominations are scattered over the whole surrounding country. Where churches do not exist, service is usually held by visiting clergymen in available buildings.

#### GAME, FISH, ETC.

Considerable small game, such as duck, prairie chicken, partridge, etc., but no large game. Settlers would do well to bring fowling pieces, but revolvers and bowie



knives are of no use. There is a considerable quantity of fish in the river, but settlers do not seem to fish much. Some of the lakes to the north are also well stocked. The principal kinds are sturgeon, trout, whitefish and goldeyes. Large game, bear and deer, is also found in the unsettled parts.

#### FRUIT CULTURE, ETC.

The district is well adapted to the culture of small fruit, but large fruit has not yet been tried. Strawberries, currants, saskatoon, high and low bush cranberries, and other small fruit grow wild, and are being gradually introduced into gardens. During the summer months the prairie is one huge flower garden, but to name the varieties of flowers would require a page of this paper. Roses, lilies, violets and many others grow in profusion.

#### ROADS, BRIDGES, ETC.

Few bridges required, and leading roads now pretty well developed.

#### AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, SEED GRAIN, ETC.

Those accustomed to the country and knowing what to bring will do well to bring materials. Others should bring household goods, but get other articles here. There will be no difficulty in getting grain.

#### POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC FACILITIES.

We have a bi-weekly mail since the railway reached us. There is a Government telegraph office. No difficulty is found in communicating with outside world.

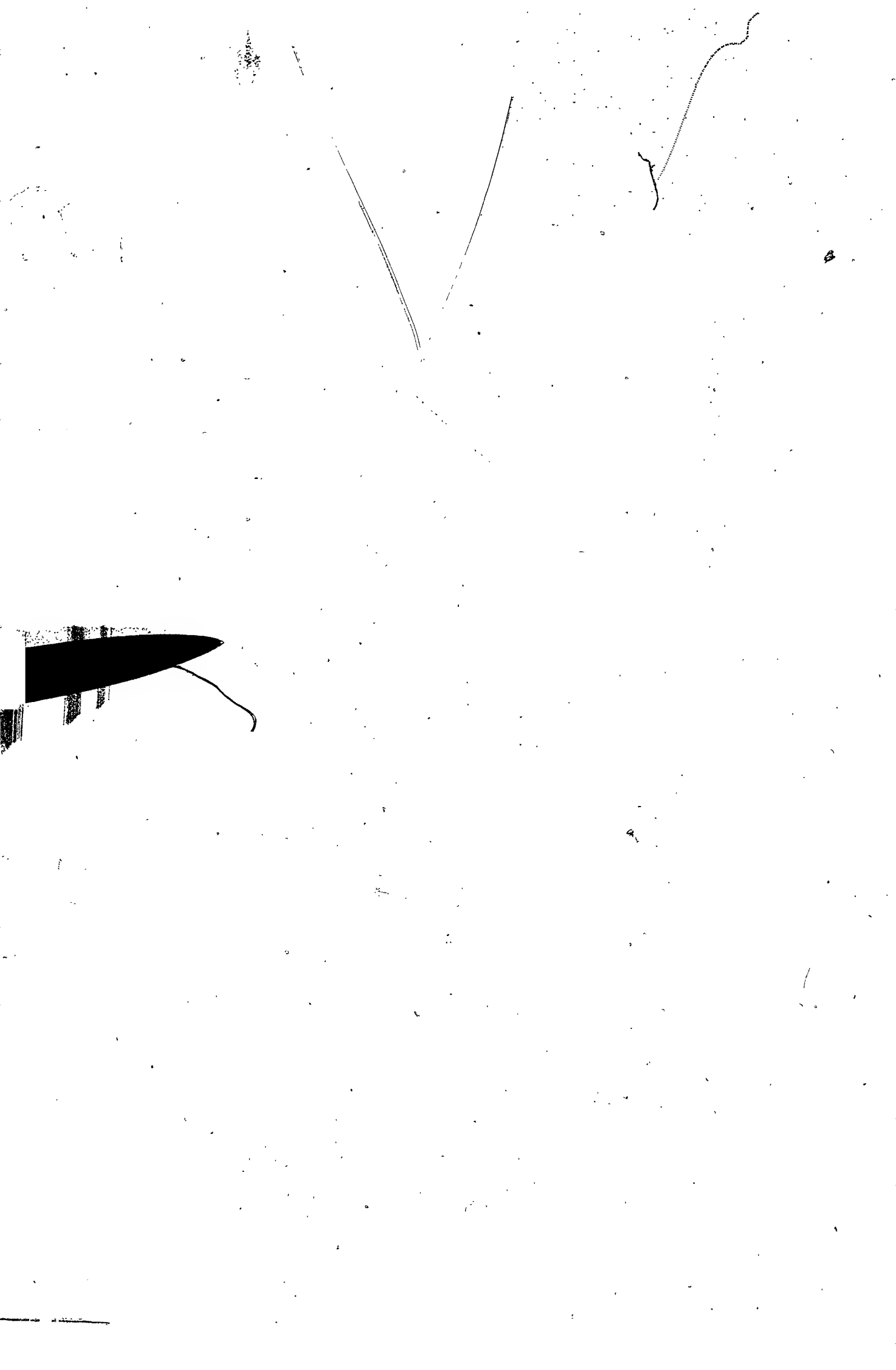
It will be remembered by the reader that, the foregoing information refers to prairie regions which lie far apart in a district whose area is almost equal to that of the United Kingdom, and that an immense country to the north and east is still unexplored; and therefore unknown. What knowledge we possess is drawn from Indians, Half-breeds, Missionaries, Hudson's Bay Company employes and the few meagre explorations made by geologists and surveyors within recent years. Enough, however, is known of the great Saskatchewan region to the north and east of Prince Albert to justify a not unfavourable estimate of its capabilities and resources. Two broad facts are well established, viz., that it is in many parts timbered, and that it is a great lake country, but not a region of great rivers with the exception of the Saskatchewan, the Mississippi or Churchill Rivers, once the canoe-route of the fur companies to the Mackenzie, lying to the north of it. None of the lakes are of the first or even of the second magnitude; such lakes lie beyond its borders. But many of them are very large, and they all swarm with fish of the finest quality, viz., whitefish and trout. The timber again where known to exist, is of value though it consists mainly of spruce. But spruce, to use a whist phrase, is now a "promoted" wood, the pine of the east being nearly exhausted; and the full-grown spruce of the North-West attains a large size, and is considered by carpenters who have used both, a softer and better wood to work than the Douglas pine of British Columbia. It and the Banksian pine, together with tamarac and birch, are the woods which obtain in the lake country, and much of them is of fair quality, and will yet be an important source of supply for prairie demand if not for export. There is considerable merchantable timber on the main Saskatchewan below the Forks and particularly at Tobins Rapids. Further down a heavy growth exists at Rabbits Creek and in the neighbourhood of "The Cut-off," near Cumberland Lake. On the Seepanook, one of the numerous "rivers that turn," that is to say which flows in opposite directions according to the stage of water, and which are peculiar to the Lower Saskatchewan region, there is said to be a fine body of timber, and a deep forest skirts the indented shores of Moose Lake which drains by Summerberry Creek into the Saskatchewan near the Pas Mission. A small variety of cedar is found at Cedar Lake, but it is a shrub rather than a tree, and has no economical value. There are other known timber resources on the main Saskatchewan, but these mentioned are the most important. Much of this country is in a formative state, and consists of 'silt' deposited by the river, which in course of time will doubtless develop into arable land resem-



bling the First Steppe. Little more can be said with regard to the timber supply of that district to the east. The north country, away from the canoe-route to posts and missions, is almost a *terra incognita*. The Laurentian sweeps into this region, and where it has been explored, various resources have been observed. It is difficult to say whether its lake system drains mainly into the Churchill or into the Nelson River. Every published map exhibits great confusion in this respect, and probably the interlockage is of an intimate and wide-spread character, and water, either of lakes or streams, covers a large portion of the country. But there is also arable land. Barley, potatoes and ordinary vegetables are raised at Stanley, a Church of England Mission 200 miles north of Prince Albert, and a few years ago a Roman Catholic Missionary stated at Prince Albert, that his region wheat had been grown and had ripened free from frost, and that there was "a very good country" in his neighbourhood. Minerals, too, doubtless exist in the north and perhaps in great abundance, for beyond the anticlinal the country is rocky though not mountainous. Cinnabar has been observed, as well as copper and iron, so that a region which has hitherto been habitable solely through its fur, fish and game, may prove upon examination to possess many other resources of economic value, the development of which may yet support a considerable population. It takes a long time for the eastern world to get rid of its misconceptions, and the most obstinate of them viz: that the North-West prairie country is a frozen wilderness, is only now as we know dying the death. In all likelihood the progress of settlement will revise our opinions with regard to the climate of the north, and the time may yet come when advanced farmers will confute the pessimists, and astonish Mark Lane with wheat grown in the neighbourhood of Hudson's Bay. It is probable that an exploratory survey of the region will be made at an early date. Its proximity to Hudson's Bay gives it great public importance, and its topographic features and economic resources will doubtless soon be investigated and the result given to the world.

#### SHEEP RAISING IN SASKATCHEWAN.

This industry is yet in its infancy in this district, owing, no doubt, to the fact that we have only now got railway communication. The first sheep introduced here about 18 years ago, were brought in by settlers from Red River, followed shortly afterwards by others from Ontario. In the fall of 1884 Mr. J. MacArthur imported from Montana a flock of 500 ewes; he was followed in the following year by Mr. C. Robertson, of Carrot River. In 1886 Mr. Diehl, of Carlton, went into this industry. In 1887, Mr. P. Fraser imported a flock from Montana, and Mr. J. M. Campbell, one from Ontario, so that in the district of Lorne in the fall of 1887 there were but 3,000 sheep. No better proof of the suitability of the country for sheep raising, and its profitability can be mentioned than the fact that all those who went into the industry have remained in it and added to their respective flocks. No disease of any kind has troubled them and the death rate is remarkably low. On the average the sheep are turned out to the grass the first week in April, and remain out till the first of December, when owing to the shortness of the day and being penned up at night they are fed the first half of December, a little hay morning and evening, after which they remain in and are fed with hay until the spring. Hay is so plentiful and the season for hay-making so suitable that the cost averaging one year with another, does not exceed \$1 per ton or 85 cents a head. The experience of the past six years goes to show that the 1st of May is the most suitable time to start lambing, lambs coming with the new grass. As a rule the month of May is always one of storm, continuing from one to three days and serious loss of lambs is liable to occur unless great care is taken. From all information to be gathered it may be stated that the average increase is about 100 per cent of ewes lambing. Clipping begins about the 15th June, as by that time the wool has nicely risen and the clip averages from 5½ to 6 lbs. per fleece. Sheep ticks are liable to be troublesome, but not if any care is taken and it is found that by dipping the lambs about the 1st July, after the sheep are all clipped that the flock can be kept in excellent condition as far as that pest is concerned. The natural enemies of sheep are here as elsewhere, the prairie wolf





or cayote is liable to be troublesome, but the owner of a flock very soon discovers when he is around and adopts a vigorous and effectual remedy also Indian dogs sometimes do damage but the losses from both causes if any care is taken are very insignificant.

It has undoubtedly been proven by past experiment that this great district of Saskatchewan is not only able to carry thousands but millions of sheep. The immense extent of open rolling prairie extending south and west from the south branch of the Saskatchewan River, can furnish grazing from April to December for untold flocks, while north and west of the north branch a boundless extent of hay will furnish them with winter food.

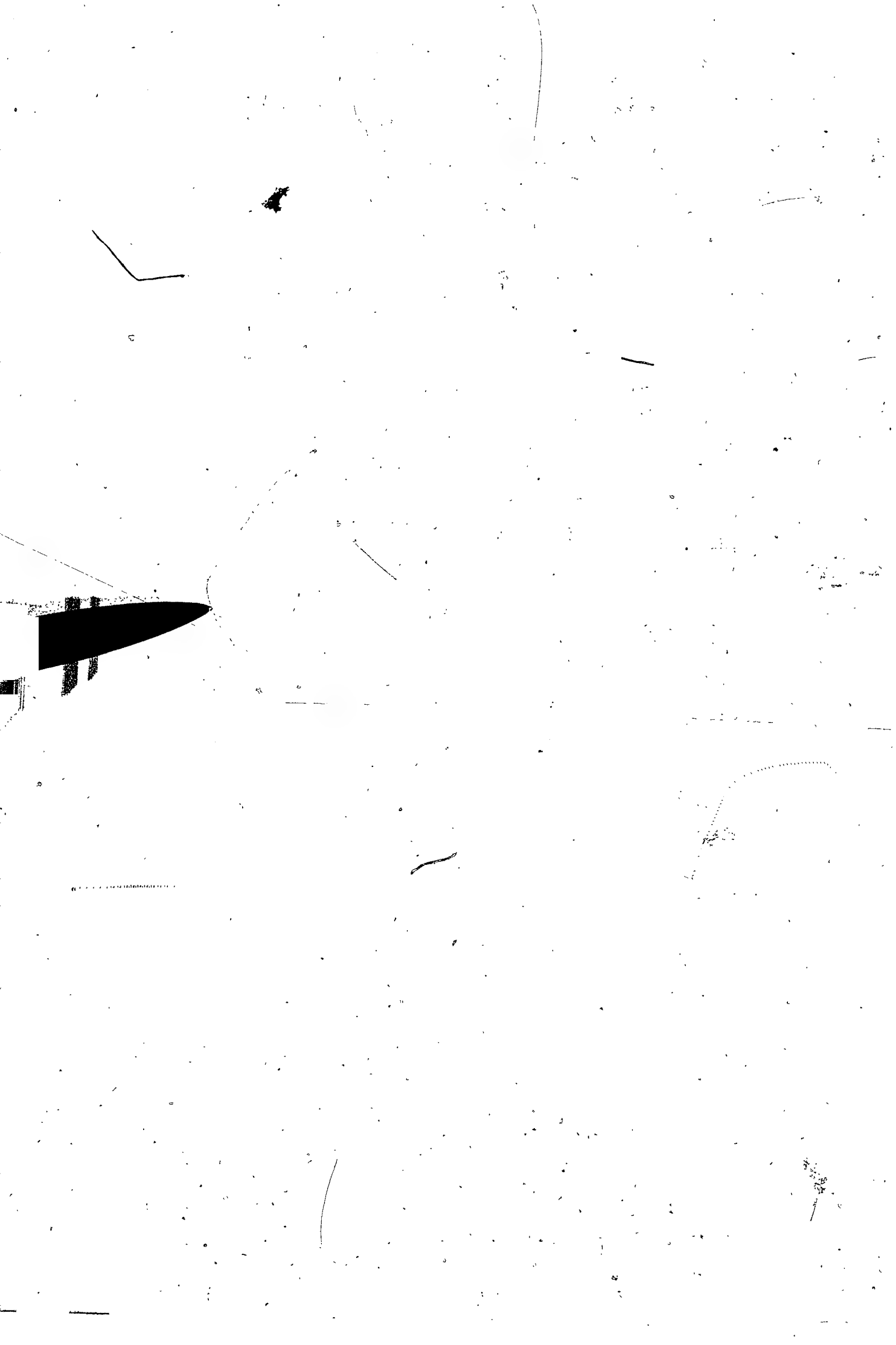
The two foregoing paragraphs are furnished by James Macarthur, Esq., of Prince Albert, whose experience and opinions will be a safe guide for those who intend to follow this industry in Saskatchewan. Owing to the abundance of natural hay and shelter afforded by the northern portion of the district, even the great plains to the south may be brought into profitable use for summer grazing. Sheep can be driven in the fall to the former parts at small expense and without loss or danger. Too much stress cannot be laid on the importance of Saskatchewan as a sheep country. The climate is healthy, the animals shine and yield mutton of the finest quality and give a heavy fleece.

Already the prophecy of Bryant is being fulfilled, and with such harvests as that of the present year the tide of human life will flow over the great West.

"These are the gardens of the Desert, these  
The unshorn fields, boundless and beautiful,  
For which the speech of England has no name—  
The Prairies. I behold them for the first,  
And my heart swells, while the dilated sight  
Takes in the encircling vastness. Lo! they stretch  
In fairy undulations, far away,  
As if the Ocean, in his gentlest swell,  
Stood still, with all his rounded billows fixed  
And motionless forever. Motionless?—  
No!—they are all unchained again. The clouds  
Sweep over with their shadows, and, beneath,  
The surface rolls and fluctuates to the eye:  
Dark hollows seem to glide along and chase  
The sunny ridges.

"Still, this great solitude is quick with life.  
Myriads of insects, gaudy as the flowers—  
They flutter over, gentle quadrupeds  
And birds—that scarce have learned the fear of man—  
Are here, and sliding reptiles of the ground,  
Startlingly beautiful. The graceful deer  
Bounds to the wood at my approach. The bee—  
A more adventurous colonist than man,  
With whom he came across the Eastern deep—  
Fills the savannahs with his murmurings,  
And hides his sweets, as in the golden age,  
Within the hollow oak. I listen long  
To his domestic hum, and think I hear  
The sound of that advancing multitude  
Which soon shall fill these deserts. From the ground  
Comes up the laugh of children, the soft voice  
Of maidens, and the sweet and solemn hymn  
Of Sabbath worshippers. The low of herds  
Blends with the rustling of the heavy grain  
Over the dark-brown furrows. All at once  
A fresher wind sweeps by, and breaks my dream,  
And I am in the wilderness alone.

Yes; to-day in all the leading towns of the North-West "the church-going bell" is heard, and beautiful healthy children have sprung up like flowers.



## ALBERTA.

The provisional district of Alberta, the great stock-raising, dairy farming, agricultural and mineral country, situated at the base of the Rocky Mountains, embraces an area larger than that of England and Wales together (over 107,700 square miles.) Rich in agricultural, mineral, grazing and forest resources. It offers rare inducements to those in the Old Country and Eastern Canada, who contemplate seeking new homes. The capitalist, tourist and health seeker will find in Alberta a country possessing all the essentials for profitable investments of capital, enjoyment of sport, and recuperation of health. To the practical farmer and stockman, it has proved to be a veritable golconda.

Although but yet in its infant years, the fame of Alberta has extended to many remote lands, and the inhabitants of Alberta are cosmopolitan in every sense. Many who have come out for a brief stay find themselves enticed by the attractions of its many and varied charms. Bright, prosperous, happy homes they should be in this land of sunny skies and fertile abundance. But little was known or heard of the country at the base of the Rocky Mountains, now designated Alberta, until the advent of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1883. Since then steady progress has been the watchword. And the rapid strides of advancement made in developing the ranching and mineral interests of the district are simply astonishing. Up to 1883 Alberta had no direct communication with Manitoba or Eastern Canada. The postal service was through the United States. American money was in circulation, and all the necessary supplies for consumption and wear came overland from Fort Benton. The construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway ushered in a new era, and plain and vale re-echoed to the hum of industry.

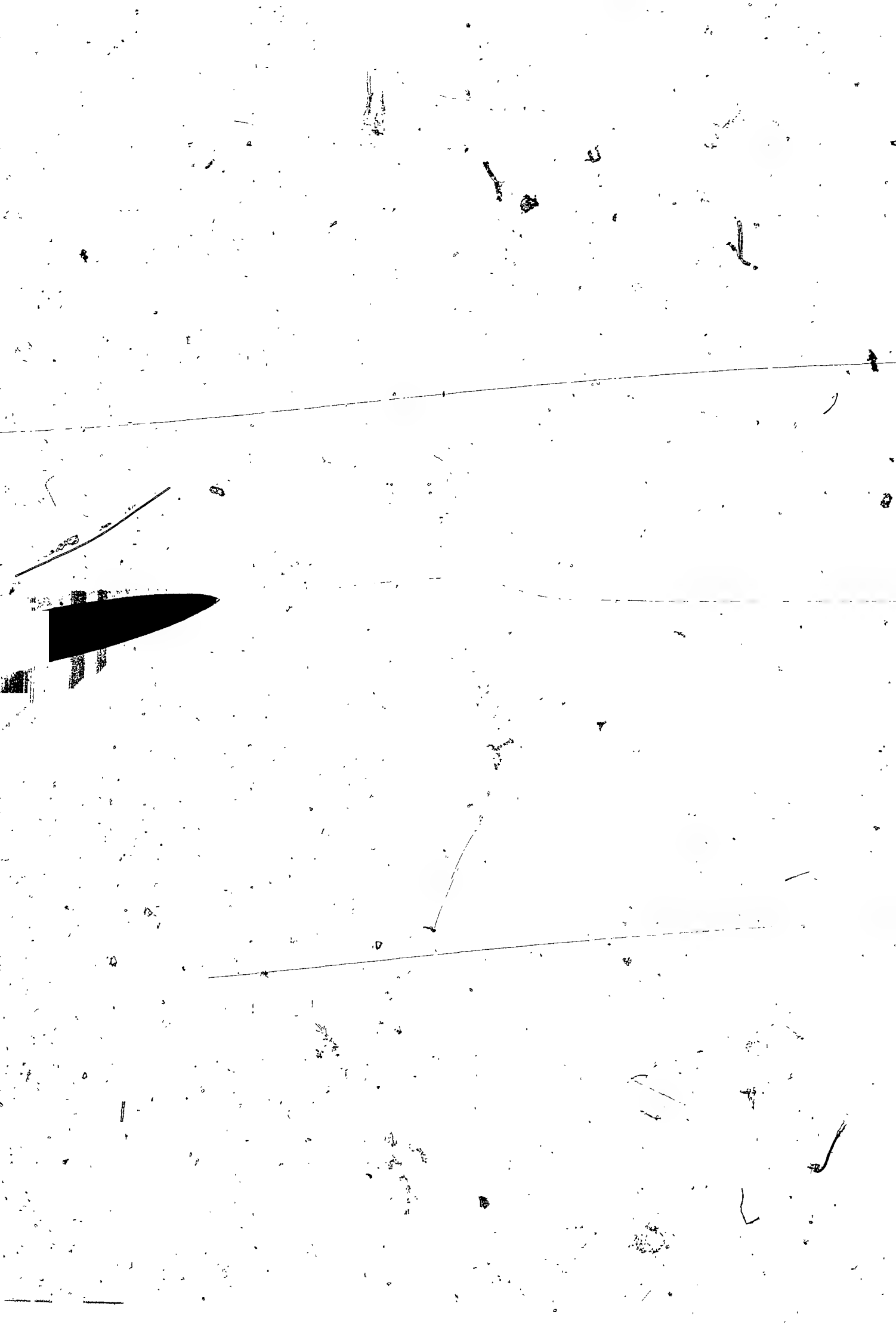
Alberta is bounded on the north by the provisional district of Athabasca, lat. 55° 7'; on the south by the international boundary line; on the east by the provisional district of Assiniboia; and on the west by the summit of the Rocky Mountains, until it intersects the 120th degree of longitude, then due north to lat. 55° 7' the eastern boundary of the Province of British Columbia. A length of some 300 miles from east to west, and 500 miles from north to south, it includes in its 107,700 square miles every variety of forest and stream, grazing and agricultural land, mineral and oil. In it are comprised some 45,000,000 of acres of the most fertile soil on the continent and some of America's largest and best deposits of coal, metals and petroleum.

Alberta is divided into two judicial districts, the northern and southern. The northern district extends from the northern boundary of Alberta to Mosquito Creek, some 50 miles south of Calgary, and the southern district includes the remaining portion of Alberta from Mosquito Creek to the international boundary line. A judge of the Supreme Court presides over each district. Over the northern Mr. Justice Rouleau (who resides at Calgary), and who also has jurisdiction over the Athabasca district. Mr. Justice Macleod (formerly Colonel of the North-West Mounted Police) is Judge of the Southern District and lives at Macleod.

Alberta was, however, previously divided into three districts: the Edmonton, Calgary and Macleod, and as such they are still better known. The Edmonton district covered all that part from the northern boundary of Alberta to a point on the Red Deer River, about 100 miles north of the town of Calgary. The Calgary district extended from the southern boundary of the northern district on the north, to Mosquito Creek on the south, and the Macleod district was the same as the present southern judicial district.

## COMMERCE.

When the vast and varied resources of this western country are considered; its immense forests of magnificent timber; its inexhaustible coal fields; its mines of



gold, silver, iron, lead and copper; its agricultural productions, its great adaptability to the successful raising of horses, cattle, sheep and hogs; it does not require a great stretch of imagination to grasp the gigantic nature of the commerce which must of necessity centre here. Every natural condition is happily blended to make Alberta in the near future, one of the richest provinces in the Dominion—although the work of developing the resources of the province can only be said to have commenced, wonderful are the strides made during the past few years. The forests are being drawn on for the comfort and progress of the initial thousands of people who have come here. Saw-mills of big proportions have been erected at all the principal towns and settlements and the great desideratum of a plenteous supply of the finest lumber in the world, is an accomplished fact. All along the western slope of the Rocky Mountains, bordering Alberta on the west, from its extreme north to its extreme south, it is timber all the way, illimitable, inexhaustible. And here is the source whence the settlers of these wide prairies will draw their lumber supplies, building up a trade in that article which will eventually give employment to its tens of thousands of woodsmen, sawyers, teamsters, and the hundreds of different hands through which the original tree passes before it is ready to furnish manufactured material for the house furniture or implement of the settler on the eastern prairie. As one turns from one natural resource to another, tremendous commercial possibilities of the future of this district, fill one with amazement. North, south, east, west, everywhere have coal mines been discovered. At Edmonton, Red Deer, Rosebud, Canmore, Anthracite, Gleichen, Sheep Creek, Lethbridge and Crows Nest Pass, immense deposits are known to exist, and in several places are now being worked to profitable advantage. The coal mines of Lethbridge are now turning out over one thousand tons per day, and the demand still exceeds the supply.

The anthracite coal on the Canadian Pacific Railway west of Calgary is said to be fully equal to the best Pennsylvania article and it is impossible to form any true estimate of the value of the billions of tons of coal—anthracite and bituminous—which underlie this vast district. Lying almost side by side with the great coal deposits of this region are minerals of nearly all kinds: gold, silver, lead, copper, iron, etc., in such abundance that there is little doubt that Alberta will some day rival the most productive of the neighbouring States in its mineral output. For years past placer mining has been carried on along the banks of the North Saskatchewan and its tributaries, and that rich placer diggings will be struck some day in the mountains is firmly believed by the old miners and prospectors. In iron, Alberta claims to have an unexhausted supply. The iron ore lies mostly contiguous to coal deposits and is therefore in readiness for immediate use. In this combined iron and coal industry alone a great commerce must yet centre, and every day brings its development nearer. Here there are mines from which the great provinces of Canada will draw their supplies for the numerous railways which will traverse this vast and productive country ere long. Following closely in the wake of the lumbering and mining interests are agricultural and stock interests, and the commerce they are now creating is of no small volume.

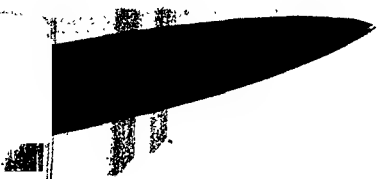
The sister Province of British Columbia is drawing on the market of Alberta for beef, mutton, oats, barley, potatoes, etc., etc., to supply the mining and seaport cities and towns of that progressive Province, added to which are the annual exports of fat cattle to Great Britain—cattle too of such superior quality that the press of Great Britain is loud in praise of them. The shipment of cavalry, carriage and draft horses to the markets of the East and Great Britain will be commenced at an early date, and in this respect the horse breeders of Alberta have by the importation of the best stud animals of different classes anticipated supplying the horse market with superior animals. Then the sheep—the wool and mutton industry—will add to Alberta's commercial industry. Already heavy shipments of mutton are being made to British Columbia and Manitoba, and the large wool clip finds a ready market in Toronto, Montreal and elsewhere. That this wool will be manufactured in Alberta at an early date is without question and that this too will be a great and profitable industry is assured. Already a woollen mill has commenced operations near Calgary, turn-



ing out blankets, tweeds, flannels, etc., of a superior quality. The tanning industry is also one which will soon spring into existence and furnish employment for hundreds and create much commerce. The great herds of cattle ranging on the plains and foot hills of Alberta afford thousands of hides to supply the future tanneries, and, as if nature left nothing wanting, there is practically an inexhaustible supply of bark in the mountains near by. The grain growing resources of the country too demand that flouring and oat meal mills be erected at the principal towns and settlements. That the future meat trade of the country will not be continued long under the present system goes without question. Instead of shipping cattle, sheep and hogs alive to ports of Great Britain, slaughter houses will be established throughout Alberta and the prime meats of stock fed on pea vine meadows and buffalo grass plateaus of Alberta will find their way to the markets of Old Canada and Great Britain in refrigerating cars and compartments. Keeping all these resources in view, who can doubt the magnitude of Alberta's commerce in the years to come.

#### HORSE BREEDING.

That Alberta is a horse breeding country equal to any on the continent goes without question. Although but yet a young industry, (as all Alberta industries are) dating from the time when the Canadian Pacific Railway reached the Bow River country, it has already made wonderful strides, and the men who have put their capital into horses, almost to a man have been successful. In the early days of the country's history the horses found on the ranges were divided into two classes or breeds, if they may so be called; i.e. the broncho, or large bodied light limbed horse of mixed breed, brought over from Montana or Oregon, a horse with wonderful powers of endurance inherited from his Mexican ancestry; a horse with lots of "go," but little style or beauty; and the Cayuse or Indian pony, a mongrel of the first order, in-bred and mean looking, yet able at all seasons, with no care, or other food than prairie grass, to cover distances of from 50 to 80 miles a day for days at a stretch. These were the horses of Alberta a few years ago. To-day we find a different breed and style of animal. The large and wealthy cattle owners and enterprising farmers saw in Alberta all that a horse breeder could ask or desire in a country. They went to the old country and the East and purchased the best stallions they could procure; thoroughbreds, standard trotters, Clydes, Percherons, Shires and Hackneys. They culled out the poorest of the native mares and shipped them east to Manitoba and kept the best for breeding purposes. They went further; they shipped in and continued to ship in from Ontario brood mares largely half and three-quarter bred Clydes; one company going further still, to secure a good foundation for its breeding stock and importing from Ireland some 250 splendid brood mares, which have thriven beyond expectation in the foot hills at the base of the Rockies. That such enterprise has brought its reward goes without saying. To-day it is estimated that there are some 25,000 head of horses in Alberta the greater number of which are running at large during summer and winter with no shelter or food other than that which they find for themselves on the prairie and foot hills. Horsemen from the East gaze with wonder and admiration on the bands of horses which they see on the ranges in the MacLeod and Calgary districts. With pardonable pride the rancher points out the breeding, symmetry and development of his young stock raised on native grass. Unsheltered though they be, their coats are as sleek and shining as the best groomed city animals. The clear light air, the pure water and the nutritious grasses of Alberta produce an animal full of stamina and health, free from lung or bone disease. With all these advantages and with the cost of raising horses reduced to a minimum, Alberta must ere long be placed as one of the leading horse breeding emporiums of the world. Those who have engaged in the business and secured good sires and mares are now commencing to reap their reward. There are hundreds of thousands of acres of vacant grass lands well watered and sheltered waiting for occupation. There is always a ready market for a good horse and it costs as little, once having the stock to start





with, to raise a good animal as it does to raise a scrub. True it costs more and requires more capital to embark in horse breeding than it does in cattle or mixed farming, but once fairly started, the work is light and the road to competence sure, always provided practical management and judicious attention is given to the business. Any young man starting with from 30 to 50 good mares and a well-bred stallion of light or heavy breeds, as the choice may be, should with ordinary success, at the end of five years be in comfortable circumstances. The selection of good mares and stud, and the securing of good range is more than half the battle.

## CATTLE RAISING.

Looking back, some fifteen years, we find Alberta (then better known as the Bow River Country) the haunt of vast herds of buffalo. To-day the buffalo is an animal of the past, the race almost extinct, and in this, his favourite watering range, the Short Horn, the Hereford and Polled Angus have taken his place. Buffalo hunting is past and gone, and cattle ranching in full swing.

During 1881, the Cochrane Cattle Ranch, the pioneer of the great ranching industry of the present day, was established, and a large band of cattle purchased in Montana, were driven into Canadian territory and ranged in the vicinity of Calgary. Unfortunately the second drive of cattle in 1882 arrived late in the season and, owing to a succession of storms, the cattle drifted badly, and in their attempt to return to their native range many were lost or perished from exhaustion or lack of food. These losses put a damper on the cattle business for a time, but milder winters followed and a number of companies were formed, with the object of engaging in breeding, and thousands of breeding animals were brought in from the Western States. In March, 1884, it was estimated that the number of cattle in Alberta amounted to 40,000 head, and from the commencement of the industry the demand for beef cattle was greater than the supply. First, the local market, the Indian Department, the North-West Mounted Police and the thousands of men employed in the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, together with the ever increasing numbers of incoming settlers, swelled the consumption to such an extent as to tax to the utmost the beef supply of Alberta. Later on came the demand from British Columbia and the many mining towns and settlements along the line of railway; and later still the heavy shipments of beefs to the cities of old Canada and Great Britain. Last fall Senator Cochrane shipped to England 800 head of steers and 160 head of splayed heifers, credited by the British press with being the best lot of cattle ever brought across the Atlantic; all high grades, Herefords, Short-Horns and Polled Angus, in the pink of condition. They stood the journey well and averaged, for the steers, £17 5s. 0d.—(\$86); and for the heifers, £14 0s. 0d.—(\$70); cost of shipping, say \$30, leaving a handsome profit on cattle that never received a handful of feed other than prairie grass, and roamed on the prairie from their birth to maturity. Messrs. Simpson & Harford also shipped, about the same date, to Great Britain 200 head of dry cows, which brought £14 2s. 6d.—(\$70.60). The success of the above shipments has infused new life into the cattle business, and ere long it is anticipated that thousands of the grass fed cattle of Alberta will be shipped annually to the great consuming centres of Great Britain, not alive as heretofore, but slaughtered and prepared for market at Calgary and Macleod and transhipped by refrigerator cars and steamers, thus avoiding loss and shrinkage. It is estimated there are now some 160,000 head of range and domestic cattle in Alberta, the greater number of which are neither sheltered or fed at any season. The losses during the most severe seasons do not exceed from 8 to 12 per cent, and during mild seasons, like the present, the losses are not calculated at more than 1½ to 2½ per cent., a bagatelle, where it is conceded that the cost of rearing a four year old steer is computed by stockmen to range from \$7.50 to \$12. During severe seasons losses are principally old cows and calves. Steers seldom suffer much from severe weather. As an instance of the nutrition of Alberta grass, it may be stated that during the months of March, April, May, 1890, following the most severe winter known in Alberta, train loads of fat steers were shipped at Calgary to Vancouver



brought off the ranges of High River. As in horse breeding in Alberta, so in cattle breeding, all credit to Alberta stockmen. No pains or expense has been spared to breed up to a high standard: stock bulls have been imported from Great Britain and the breeding farms of Eastern Canada, and the range cattle of Alberta are to-day in point of breeding and quality second to none on the Continent of America. The industry is yet very young, not quite ten years old; that the coming years will see wonderful progress is an assured fact. The system of management is yearly becoming more practical; and the cattle men growing more experienced, and so avoiding losses, which were formerly due to careless management rather than to any climatic drawback. To those looking for a country in which to engage in cattle ranching we would say "Come to Alberta" and you will be convinced that that is the range country *par excellence* of western America. There are millions of acres of grazing lands yet unstocked, and room for thousands more to engage in the business.

#### CLIMATE.

The climate of Alberta cannot be surpassed, there being no place probably throughout the world which enjoys so much bright sunshine the year round. Indeed this may be well called the land of sunshine. More particularly we notice this in the autumn and winter by the striking contrast it is to the other places where day follows day with murky sky and drenching rain. Here from September to April rain seldom if ever falls. Occasionally the "beautiful snow" carpets the earth with its whiteness, moistening and enriching the native grasses upon which the range cattle live and fatten.

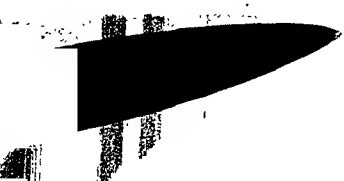
During the last three months of the year the weather is superb; day after day, week after week of clear bright sunshine, and the nights are scarcely less lovely than the days—the cloudless sky studded with innumerable stars, the moon shedding a brighter light than in the East. Frequently the mountains, one hundred miles distant, are distinctly visible, their snowy peaks glistening in the calm moonlight. Usually the winter weather sets in at the beginning of the new year and is extremely cold for three or four weeks. But the severity of the weather is not to be judged by the thermometer; the air in Alberta is so singularly clear and free from moisture that even when the thermometer falls to 30° below zero, the cold is not so intense and far less discomforting than when it stands at zero in the more humid climate of the East. Cold is seldom of long duration; at any time we may have the Chinook winds from the Pacific coast, driving away the icy blast and substituting its own strong warm breath, causing the snow to disappear as if by magic. This melting of the snow without its usual accompaniment of sleet is a pleasant and peculiar feature of the Spring season in Alberta.

Spring is generally early, the end of February sometimes finds farmers ploughing and seeding. Of course, we have cold snaps of a few days all through the Spring and occasional snow storms up to the middle of May. Snow falling so late in the season may appear to strangers to be a drawback to the country. That is not so, but quite the reverse. Snow takes the place of rain, only doing a greater good, nourishing the ground much more.

While we cannot say that we have any rainy season, the month of June is most frequently showery throughout. After that there is little rain save an occasional thunder storm. The harvest can be gathered in with but very slight danger of injury to it from that cause.

Summer commences the latter part of May. This is a very delightful season—no intense heat; while the sun is extremely hot in the day time yet it is never sultry and the nights are always refreshingly cool. One does not experience here that languid feeling which comes with the sultry days of July and August in Ontario.

The most unpleasant feature of this climate is the prevailing high winds; and though they seldom do any harm other than give personal discomfort—they are disagreeable; but notwithstanding the wind storms this is a delightful climate, and better still it is most healthful and invigorating. The atmosphere in Alberta is at



all times so free from humidity or vapor that the climate strongly recommends itself to people suffering with pulmonary or bronchial affections. And to keep a healthy man healthy, a sound man sound, full of life, energy and determination, there is no climate like that of Alberta.

#### THE CALGARY DISTRICT.

The Calgary district or Central Alberta is bounded on the north by the southern boundary of the Edmonton district, on the south by the northern boundary of the Macleod district, on the west by the eastern boundary of the Province of British Columbia, and on the east by the western boundary of the provisional district of Assiniboia, and to some 150 miles in length by about 240 miles in breadth. As the northern portion of the district is described in an article in this pamphlet, under the heading of Red Deer District, it will only be necessary to refer to that portion lying south of the Red Deer country. The district may be described as having three distinct surface features; to the west the Rocky Mountains, ever beautiful, awe-inspiring and majestic, grand beyond description in scenery, and rich beyond conception in its mineral and lumber resources, the untold wealth of which is now attracting the attention of eastern capitalists, and the development of which will assure the future prosperity of this new west. Beneath and lying east of the Mountain range are the foot hills, the great grazing, coal and timber lands of the west, whose valleys and hillsides now re-echo the ring of the woodman's axe, the miner's pick and the softer music of the lowing herd and bleating flock; further east still the verdant prairie lands, the rich river valleys and vast stretches of productive, table and down lands of this now famous agricultural and ranching country, which was the choice feeding ground of the buffalo less than 20 years ago.

The northern portion of the district is well adapted for sheep-farming for stock in small hands whose owners will provide sufficient hay to feed them through the winter; for occupation by men who will depend largely on the raising of sheep, cattle and horses and who will not cultivate the soil to any great extent. Hay meadows are plentiful, coal easily obtained and wood is abundant in the north-east and north-west. The Chinook winds do not exert any great influence on the snow and for this reason the winters are longer and more severe than in the country lying south of the Canadian Pacific Railway, where the oft recurring chinook or south-west winds melt the snow and so shorten the duration of severe weather.

Most of the eastern portion is better adapted for pasture for sheep farming and summer grazing than for cultivation. While the soil over a large area is rich and productive, the lack of sufficient rain during some seasons and the want of winter shelter does not make it as desirable a place to settle as the more favoured part of Central Alberta. At Gleichen, a divisional point on the Canadian Pacific Railway, some 50 miles east of the town of Calgary, there is a rich belt of country well suited for agricultural purposes and where thousands of acres of free Government lands are still open for entry as homesteads. This rich belt extends north to the Rosebud country, and is a part of the district which should attract settlement; it possesses a good supply of water, wood and coal, and will ere long, no doubt, have railway connection with Calgary. West of Gleichen and adjacent to the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Namaka, Shephard and Langdon the soil is fertile; grain growing and general farming have been most successfully proven by the farmers there; more especially might be mentioned extra fine crops of wheat that have been grown there each year; a large extent of land is cultivated and the settlers are cheerful and prosperous, they have an unlimited supply of good grasses, heavy meadows are everywhere to be found; lumber can be had at a reasonable price; coal can be delivered on the railroad, or else hauled from Bull Hill or Rosebud country to the north, where there is no end to the supply, and they have daily access to the markets of Calgary by railway. Large tracts of this land are still unoccupied.

Leaving the settlements of Namaka, Shephard and Langdon behind and following the C.P.R. westward, the traveller descends into the valley of the Bow and on



over the rushing mountain streams the Bow and Elbow, he finds himself at Calgary situated almost central of the district bearing its name. The town, or rather young city of Calgary nestles in a lovely valley or basin, walled in on either side by precipitous banks and almost surrounded by two rapid sparkling rivers, the Bow and Elbow, which find their confluence at the East end of the town. Be not amazed, you eastern traveller, if you find yourself entranced with the natural beauties of the surroundings and startled at the bounds of progress which pluck and enterprise have developed here during the past few years. No doubt you will follow in the footsteps of travellers from far Australia, Europe, Great Britain, America and old Canada, come to enjoy a holiday, but find themselves so assured of Calgary's great future as an agricultural, mineral, manufacturing and distributing centre, that they invest their money in Calgary town property, resting satisfied that their capital is well placed. They journey on perchance to return soon and make their homes in sunny progressive Alberta. The lover of nature can feast his eyes on her loveliness as he looks westward and beholds the verdant foot hills carpeted with grasses, bedecked in their season with myriad flowers, further still and yet apparently only a few miles distant, where the snow-capped peaks of the grand old Rockies piercing the blue vault of heaven, their fleecy whiteness dazzling in the sunlight; the beautiful climate here braces the tired system of the Easterner, filling him with new life, new hope, new energy. Progress and success are wafted on the mountain breeze and all animal life is full of vim and exuberance of spirits. The air, the scenery, the surroundings, the future prospects are all invigorating beyond prosaic description: everything in and about Calgary bespeak prosperity and progress. Men move about as if life was worth living and the stranger is at once struck with the whole heartedness with which people engage in their business pursuits or pastime recreations.

The town of Calgary was established in the spring of 1884. The Railway Company took 640 acres, the site being placed on the market in the early spring of that year. Shortly after the Dominion Government sub-divided another section of 640 acres into town lots and offered them for sale. Since then a few annexes have been added to the town site. The original prices of lots varied from \$25.00 to \$450.00 per lot, while to-day business lots sell from \$2,800 to \$5,000 per lot and but for out-side lots are offered at less than \$75.00 each and prices are steadily advancing. Calgary history is one of solid, gradual advancement, each year business is increasing in volume, and property in actual value. The present population of Calgary is put at 4000 but the amount of business transacted is greater than that of many towns of double its population. During the past four years sums varying from two hundred and twenty five thousand to three hundred thousand dollars have been expended annually in building operations, while it is estimated that at least half a million dollars will be expended this year (1891) in buildings and other improvements. During the year 1890 some three hundred and fifty thousand dollars worth of Calgary real estate changed hands. Also during the past year a water supply system and a sewerage system was constructed. Calgary boasts of possessing a hotel equal to any west of Toronto, has two charter and two private banks; agencies of several large loan companies are established here. Calgary has two daily and three weekly newspapers, has telephone and two electric light systems, has a public and high school, Protestant and Roman Catholic private schools, has five churches and a public hospital. The North-West Mounted Police have an important station here, and the Assistant Commissioner of the Force resides in this place. The Judge of the Supreme Court of Northern Alberta, the Hon. J. A. Lougheed, Senator, the superintendent of Dominion mines, the Dominion Land Agent, the Canadian Pacific Railway land agent, the registrar of land titles and the sheriff of Northern Alberta Judicial District, all reside at Calgary. Large and complete stocks of merchandise are carried by wholesale and retail merchants. Agents of various agricultural implements do business here. The incoming settler will find all his requirements supplied at reasonable cost. The lines of goods carried are both extensive and complete, and in point of quality largely first class. A second class line of goods does not find an





appreciative market in the West. There are a number of lumber and coal yards doing business and a large saw-mill in operation. Steps are at present being taken to incorporate companies to erect and operate flouring mills, a meat canning establishment, a tannery and several other manufacturing industries. The town has a public market place and the farmers of the district find a ready sale for their produce at Calgary. That the agricultural interests are not forgotten, it may be stated that the agricultural fair grounds—some 90 acres—adjoin the corporation, and at the recent annual meeting a credit balance of over eighteen thousand dollars was shown in favour of the Agricultural Society. While the population of Calgary is made up of active business people, the social element is not neglected during the winter months; balls, concerts, amateur theatricals, literary entertainments and private parties frequently occur, skaters and curlers have their separate rinks, the various friendly and benevolent societies have lodges, and the people as a whole enjoy all the advantages of social life. In the summer season fishing, shooting, hunting, riding and pic-nic parties are in order, the new comer will find himself agreeably disappointed at the elevated standard of social life in the far West. Another thing which surprises the new arrival is the solidity and costly architectural adornments of the Calgary buildings. Not alone are many of the business, religious and public buildings built of stone and brick, but quite a number of the residences are of the same materials and fitted up in the most approved modern styles, showing that the men who have succeeded in Calgary are not doubtful of its future, and build their homes as substantially as did their fathers in older lands. The construction of the Calgary and Edmonton Railway from Calgary North already completed as far as Red Deer, and the contemplated construction of a line south of Calgary to McLeod during the present year is another progressive step, which adds to Calgary's many advantages. Situated in the midst of the richest agricultural and greatest stock country in the Dominion, its vicinity to the great mineral deposits of the Rocky Mountains, its natural advantages as a distributing and supply centre for a vast and fertile country added to its attractions as a residential location, it promises by its site alone to be chosen whenever practicable as a home for the future population of the district and a prosperous history is assured for it that must be unrivalled in the North-West.

North of Calgary the country for several miles is excellent for mixed farming, and a large number of settlers have taken up farms and are doing well, indeed. This part of the district excels in hay lands. There is much good land here still open for settlement or for sale by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, at reasonable prices. It may be here mentioned that the Canadian Pacific Railway own alternate sections for 24 miles north and south of their main line, which is offered for sale at prices ranging from \$2.50 to \$6 per acre, at easy terms of payment.

#### WEST OF CALGARY.

Following the Valley of the Bow and the Canadian Pacific Railway, the traveller finds himself passing through a series of rich bottom lands and grassy hills, largely occupied by men owning bands of horses and herds of cattle numbering from 50 head upwards. This district is admirably suited for this, as, indeed, it is for dairy and sheep farming, which is also carried on chiefly south of the Bow. There is an extensive horse rancho 20 miles west of Cochrane, and further west is the sheep ranch known as the "Merino," owned by Mr. F. White, one of the most successful sheep ranchers in the Territories. Some 45 miles west of Calgary is Morleyville, one of the oldest settlements in this portion of Alberta. The McDougall family, the pioneers of Alberta, reside here, and the tourist and pleasure seeker will miss much of the enjoyment of his Western trip if he fails to stop off at Morleyville and make the acquaintance of the McDougall Brothers. They are born sportsmen and are rich in anecdote of Alberta in the days when the pale faces were few, and when the buffalo and other large game were numerous. There is good shooting and fishing in this vicinity. The Stoney Indian reserve is here and an Indian orphanage, under the superintendence of the Rev. J. McDougall. It reflects much credit on this missionary family that the Indians among whom they have laboured are advanced



in civilization, are industrious and almost self supporting, a striking contrast to the majority of North-West Indians. There is a thriving settlement in this district, settlers are in good circumstances, owners of bands of horses and herds of cattle. The scenery is varied and charming, mountain and vale, forest and stream. As a horse range the Morley country is pre-eminent. Further west are the saw mills of Kananaskis, the semi-anthracite coal mines of Canmore, and the anthracite coal mines situated in the mountain pass close to the Canadian Pacific Railway line.

#### BANFF.

Still further on into the mountains, and some 80 miles west of Calgary, is Banff—Canada's great health resort—The Rocky Mountain Park. A number of hot springs were discovered here during 1883, and in 1885 the Dominion Government set aside a large tract of country for park purposes, and since then have expended large sums of money in building bridges, constructing drives and paths to the many points of interest, and now Banff is one of the most interesting places in Western Canada. There are several hotels, including a magnificent one built by the Canadian Pacific Railway, and fitted in the most modern style. The Sanitarium Hotel, under medical direction, affords the health seeker and tourist every care and comfort. In its hygienic surroundings and unrivalled grandeur Banff has already been honoured by being placed on equal footing with that of any health resort on this continent. The invalid who has come to seek health, leaves extolling and testifying to the healthful and curative effects of the waters; while those who have come for pleasure or rest are delighted and refreshed by the wonderful beauty and grandeur of its varied scenery. Here are the lovely valleys of the Spray and Bow, the Cascade and Spray Falls at a little distance, the fascinating Devil's Lake, and surrounding all are the magnificent mountains in whose heights nestle wood and lake, and down whose sides are bubbling springs and rushing torrents. With such allurements Banff must annually attract more attention from the tourist, health and pleasure seekers, who cannot fail to enjoy a visit there. Dr. Brett, chairman of the Advisory Board of the North-West Assembly resides at Banff.

West of Banff the country is a series of mountain ranges containing forests of splendid timber and illimitable deposits of coal, copper, silver and iron ore, which when developed will add to the wealth, not of Alberta alone, but of the whole of this great Dominion of Canada.

South-west of Calgary, along the Elbow River, the country is in every way suited for mixed farming, dairy farming and for cattle and horse ranges. Settlers are fast coming in and taking up land and bringing the soil under cultivation. Grass, water, timber and coal are abundant.

To the country lying south of Calgary we would call the special attention of the practical farmer who purposes making his home in the West. It will well repay the newcomer to travel south for, say, 30 miles, through the settlements of Fish Creek, Pine Creek, Sheep Creek and High River, over an undulating country, thickly settled with mixed farmers, where schools and churches are numerous, where for the past eight years successful crops of wheat, oats, barley and roots have been grown and have yielded heavy crops; where tens of thousands of acres of rich loam lands are now under cultivation and where hundreds of thousands of fertile acres await future settlement. A district of good roads, of lands thickly carpeted with nutritious grasses, where stock of all kinds except milk cows range out the year round, where the only taxes are those levied for school purposes and which amount to from \$5 or \$20 per year to each farmer. The visitor will be surprised at the comfortable farm-houses, well filled granaries, and the high grade of the live stock; everything indicates prosperity and fruitful harvests. Farming is no longer an experiment here; its success is as assured as in any portion of Canada, and the new-comer should consider well before he leaves this part of Alberta for more remote districts, where success is not so fully assured. The construction of a railway through this country during the present year will be an incentive to the more extensive cultivators. The generous yields of past years have filled the settlers with pride in their



country and with energy which is begot of success. The farmer from the East may, if he chooses, rent or purchase an improved farm and many have already found it to their advantage to do so rather than take up wild lands. At Sheep Creek, some 25 miles south of Calgary, a saw-mill is in operation and lumber is sold at Calgary prices, viz: \$14 to \$25 per thousand feet. Several coal mines have been opened up during the past few years, which supply not alone the farming community, but also largely the town of Calgary, with fuel. There is but little doubt, that an important town will spring up within the next few years, in the vicinity of Sheep Creek or High River. The great agricultural, cattle, lumber and coal interests fully warrant its being and its prosperity.

The west and south-west portion of Central Alberta is a ranching country where thousands of horses and tens of thousands of cattle roam at will, never receiving shelter or food other than they obtain for themselves on the luxuriant prairie lands and grassy foot-hills of the Rockies.

The intending settler will be hard to please indeed if he does not find a suitable location for farming or ranching in the Calgary district, which, with its agricultural productiveness, its pre-eminence for stock raising, its inexhaustible mineral resources and timber supply, is of a certainty to become one of the most progressive and prosperous districts in the whole North-West.

## NORTHERN ALBERTA.

### THE ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF EDMONTON.

*Compiled by Frank Oliver, M. L. A.*

The farmer who is compelled to seek a new location for himself and family, has a very serious question to face. The circumstances compelling him to remove may be of various kinds. He may be cramped on too small a piece of land, or he may not have enough capital with which to work the land he has, or he may not own his land, and at the close of his lease must seek a new location, or he may be desirous of securing land for his children and unable to purchase it in the vicinity in which he lives, or he may have bought land at too high a price and be unable to complete his payments. Any of these reasons may be sufficient to make it advisable for the farmer located in the East to seek a new home; to say nothing of bad seasons or personal misfortunes or faults. Whatever may be the reasons for removal, there is no doubt that the removal itself is a loss. The time that is taken in removing from one place to another, the travelling expenses, the losses and accidents before everything can be accommodated to the new surroundings and be got working to advantage, make it most necessary that there should be as few removals as possible in a man's lifetime, if wealth is desired. Therefore the person intending to remove requires to weigh well the permanent advantages of the several localities of which he has choice before removing, so that the one removal will answer all purposes. He should ask: What region produces those articles which are of the highest and most permanent commercial value? In what part of the region adapted to the production of these articles can they be produced in the greatest abundance and perfection, and with the greatest average certainty? In what part of that region is the soil best suited by reason of the depths of its fertility to permanently keep up an abundant yield? Has the region, otherwise suitable, a healthy climate, tending to bodily and mental vigor; for wealth without health to enjoy it or successors to use it is of little account? Are there favourable opportunities for acquiring land at a low rate in that region? Are the natural conditions favourable to a settler starting on a small capital? Are the social conditions there of ordinary civilization—is life and property secure and are their educational and religious advantages available? A satisfactory answer to these questions is more important to the thinking, working, saving farmer—the man who is the producer of the wealth and is the backbone of the civilization



of both Canada and the United States; who has made these countries what they are—than to the questions that are ordinarily the first ones asked. Is there a rush of immigration, is the country booming, is money plentiful, is land rising in value, is railway building going on? With a continually increasing population, continually seeking new homes, and with capital continually increasing and as continually seeking investment, if the natural conditions of any section of this continent are desirable, immigration and railways will find it before long—labour and capital will overrun it; but if the natural conditions are unsuitable, although it may be artificially boomed for a time, as has been the case with Dakota, nature will assert itself, and heart-breaking disappointment or disastrous loss must result as they have resulted there, where the natural conditions were so adverse that they could not be overcome. In looking over the ground for a suitable location, the intending settler should be particularly careful regarding any district that is booming, and should carefully bear in mind that the fact that it is booming has no necessary relation to its suitability as a place for locating or investing capital in. As there was a time when it did not boom, so there is as certain to be a time when it will not boom, and when the calculations that have been made on a boom basis will as certainly break those who have made them as the boom itself will certainly break. The men who make the money in a boom are the men who located before there was a boom, or before it was thought of. The men out of whom they make the money are the men who come in after the boom is started and mistake the boom for permanent prosperity. Therefore, if it is desired to locate or invest, do not go to a place where a boom is in progress, but to a place where there is no boom, where the natural conditions are such as to insure a lasting prosperity as the result of industry, which is the only true source of wealth.

#### WHERE DOES FARMING PAY BEST?

In answer to the question. What region produces those articles which are of the highest and most permanent commercial value? The agricultural products, which are of the highest and most permanent value, are most universally necessary to the existence of civilized man, for civilized man alone has the commercial facilities to give them world-wide distribution, and he alone has money to pay for them. These products are wheat and cattle in their manufactured state of flour and beef. It would be possible for the world to do without sugar, or tea, or coffee, or tobacco, or cotton altogether for a time, or to reduce the consumption to such a degree as to break everyone engaged in growing these products. Men engaged in raising these products may occasionally make large profits easily, but they are subject to as heavy losses from low markets. It is not possible for the civilized world to do without flour or beef, nor is it possible for consumption to be as greatly reduced on account of an increase of price, as in the case of other products. A decrease of production or an increase of demand increases the price of flour and beef according to the buyer's necessity, which is not under his control to the same extent as regarding other products. Therefore the farmer engaged in raising wheat and beef for export has a surer market for all time than the farmer raising any other article of produce. He is not then subject to the losses from low markets or from lack of a market as those who raise sugar, or coffee, or tobacco, or cotton are, and as a consequence the farmers who depend on raising wheat and cattle for export are, on an average, more prosperous, and the country which depends upon their prosperity has more wealth than the farmers who depend on less staple articles, or the country which depends on them. The farmer who desires a permanent prosperity, as the reward of industry, should locate in a wheat and cattle growing country, rather than in a sugar and coffee, and tobacco and cotton country. It should be remembered that the crops and products raised where wheat and cattle thrive are second only in importance to these articles themselves. These are the products of the Northern States and of Canada, while the Southern States and West Indies produce sugar and coffee and tobacco. There is double as much wealth per head in Canada and the Northern





United States as in the West Indies and the Southern United States, and it is more evenly divided.

#### WHERE ARE RETURNS MOST CERTAIN?

If wheat and cattle are the products upon which the farmer may most safely depend for continual prosperity, the next question is, in what part of the region adapted to their growth can they be produced in the greatest perfection and abundance—in its southern or its northern part—in Canada or in the United States? It is an established fact that all products can be brought to the greatest perfection near the northern limit of their growth. It is a well-established fact that the cultivated grains and domestic animals of Eastern Canada attain a greater perfection than those of the States immediately adjoining to the south. And it is also a well-established fact that although Ontario contains a very much larger proportion of inferior farming land, its yield of wheat per acre is considerably greater than that of the immediately adjoining and very fertile State of New York, and greater than that of any State of the Union. Regarding the superiority of its domestic animals, it need only be pointed out that Canadian cattle are admitted to the British markets without quarantine, while cattle from the United States are invariably quarantined, as being more liable to be diseased. The rule regarding the better quality and more abundant yield of grain which applies as between Eastern Canada and the United States applies equally between Western Canada and the United States. Manitoba and the North-West Territories raise more bushels of wheat to the acre than Minnesota and Dakota, and the wheat makes a better quality of flour—the best, it is worth while remembering, that the world affords. What is true regarding wheat is just as true regarding cattle. The more abundant and richer summer pasturage, and the ample supply of good hay for the winter, where hay is required, have their necessary effect in making the cattle raised in the Northwest superior in size and quality to those raised on the less abundant and less nutritive grasses of the south. What is true regarding the cattle themselves is equally true regarding their products, butter and cheese, and also regarding the other products of the farm. This point of the superior quality of Northwest products is something that should be particularly kept in mind, for while the world may compete in raising wheat and cattle, no other part of the world can compete with the Northwest in the quality of these products; therefore, whatever prices may be, the Northwest will always get the best. In average certainty of wheat production the Northwest need not fear comparison with any other new country. There have been years of failure, from grasshoppers and other years partially from drouth, but from none of these causes have failures been as frequent or as severe in the Canadian Northwest as in the prairie States south of the international boundary line. In the time of the grasshoppers the pests bred and ranged for years over the prairie territories before coming into the Canadian northwest. Their home is the plains, and they never penetrated the partly wooded regions along the Upper Saskatchewan in Northern Alberta. Although further north, being at a lower elevation and sheltered to some extent by the timbered country of the north, strange as it may seem, it is nevertheless an established fact that the Canadian Northwest has not suffered as severely from the frost in the past ten years as the prairie States to the south, and it is further an established fact that the more northerly and more wooded parts of the Territories do not suffer so severely as the higher plains further south—that there is less frost along the Saskatchewan than further south. To go no further back than 1888, frost was general and severe in Dakota and parts of Southern Manitoba, while at Edmonton there was no frosted grain, and at other points on the Saskatchewan there was very little. In 1889 there was frost in the last of May and early part of June throughout Ontario, the Eastern and Western States, and absolutely none at Edmonton. Regarding the drouth, the advantage is plainly and altogether on the side of the north-west. Where timber grows there is more moisture than where it does not grow, and as the Canadian north-west is either actually timbered, or is nearer timber than the prairie states, it must have more moisture, and certainly has, than they. There have formerly been



years of drouth in the States, when the Canadian Northwest enjoyed sufficient moisture, but last year the drouth extended to the Northwest, so that it was a test year. At Edmonton, although the season was very dry, the yield of grain was 19½ bushels to the acre of wheat, oats 26½ bushels, barley 21 bushels, a higher average than Dakota shows in its most favoured year. To sum up, in Northern Alberta, which contains the most northerly settlements in the Northwest, there is practically no danger of grasshoppers, no danger of drouth; and less danger from frost than in Dakota, while the other wheat pests prevalent in more southern latitudes are unknown. Owing to the greater moisture in this part of the country there is a better growth of richer grass than elsewhere in the territories, therefore cattle can be raised more easily, cheaply and of better quality than further south.

The surface of the country is gently undulating and through the centre of the district the Saskatchewan River flows in a bed 200 feet below the level. On top is a layer of from one to three feet of black vegetable mould, with little or no mixture of sand or gravel, bearing a growth of wild vegetation of a luxuriance seen in no other part of the territories, and indeed seldom seen anywhere outside the tropics. It is peculiar to this section of the country that the black mould is deeper on the knolls and ridges than in the hollows. This is accounted for partly by the fact of the mould being the direct result of the decomposition of vegetation just where it grew, and not a deposit brought from some other locality as in the case with the deep soil of the Red River valley; and partly by the fires which in extra dry seasons burned away the turf in the localities which on account of their being more damp, because lower, contained a greater amount of vegetable matter. The black loam of Ontario, the result of the decomposition of forests for countless ages, was very rich, but it was less than a foot in thickness. The superior fertility of the region where under parallel circumstances three feet of similar soil has been formed must be evident. With a soil of such depth and fertility it is not wonderful that in ordinarily good seasons a yield of oats of 100 to 114 weighed bushels to the acre has not been uncommon, and that less than 60 bushels is considered a poor crop; that barley will yield 60 bushels and wheat over 40, and that potatoes of from three to four pounds weight are not a rarity. Of course, these yields have not been attained every year, but they have been attained without extraordinary manures, and prove that the capacity is in the soil if the tillage is given to bring it out. Underneath the mould lies whiteish marley clay of a depth of about twelve feet. This clay, unlike the subsoil of Ontario, contains the elements of fertility, and a mixture of it with the black loam adds to the productiveness of the latter in the case of wheat. Such a soil is not only exceptionally fertile to commence with, but has practically an inexhaustible fertility. Supposing the black mould to be worked out there remains the twelve feet of marley clay underneath, which is almost equally fertile and can never be worked out. This is not to say that the land is not the better of good tillage and manure as well; but it is to say that instead of there being a continued battle as even in the best parts of England or Ontario to keep up the fertility of the soil, necessitating the bringing in of manure from the outside, this land can be kept at the highest pitch of fertility forever merely by good cultivation and returning to it the refuse of what is taken from it. The difference that the staying powers of the fertility of the soil makes to the farmer cannot be over estimated. It is the difference between wealth and poverty, between a gold mine and one of iron pyrites, between a profitable and an unprofitable occupation. The farmer who settles on a farm and in a region where the soil lacks depth may do well for a time, but as the years go by his land after going up to a certain pitch in value invariably declines as it becomes worked out, for the simple reason that that farm like a scrub pig consumes too much according to the amount that it produces. The result is disappointment and loss. How many localities can be picked out in the eastern provinces where settlers went in on light quick producing land, and spent the best years of their lives in making their homes only to find that their land had become worthless through exhaustion, and that therefore their lives had been wasted, while others who went on deeper, but more difficult, land, found a gold mine,



which by keeping up its fertility, while wealth and the conveniences of civilization increased around it, and because of it, continually increased in value, and made wealthy the owners almost in spite of themselves. This is the kind of land that the Edmonton district has to offer to settlers to a degree that no other part of the territories has. Where a man may take up a farm and be satisfied that his children's children will find it as fertile as he did. Where a man having once driven his stakes need never require to pull them up.

#### WHERE IS THE MOST HEALTHFUL CLIMATE?

One of the most important considerations to the farmer seeking a new home is the climate in its effect upon human health and pleasure, as well as upon the growth of farm stock and produce. It is almost a fixed rule that the person who has removed from an old to a new country must suffer from ill health for a considerable time until he becomes acclimatized, and until increasing civilization has changed the natural conditions of the country for the better. This is particularly the case where the country is level and the soil of great fertility as distinguished from hilly, rocky or sandy tracts. That is to say a fertile country is more apt to be unhealthy in its natural condition than an infertile country. But in this particular, the rule regarding farm stock and produce, which reach their greatest perfection near the northern limit of their growth, applies as well to the human race, only in a greater degree. Therefore it is found that the Canadian North-West generally, on account of its more northern latitude, if for no other reason, has a climate more conducive to health and vigour than the country further south in the United States, and that the new settler in the Canadian North-West has a greater certainty of retaining his health and strength in their fullest degree—necessary above all things to the pioneer's success—than the settler south of the line. The Indians on the reserves, owing to the radical change in their method of life, do suffer from disease of various kinds it is true, but it is a simple fact that among the white settlers, affections of the lungs of even the lightest kinds are almost unknown, the more severe kinds, including consumption, are entirely unknown, even epidemics such as the recent influenza, measles and scarlet fever, are very light and very rare, and infant mortality, which makes up such a large proportion of the death rate in England, does not exist as a special feature here.

Regarding the comparative amount of pleasure to be derived from existence under the many different climates of the world, there must always be a very wide difference of opinion, but it must be evident that that climate which gives a person the best health and the greatest vigor, has an advantage which cannot be counterbalanced by any feature of a climate which detracts from health and vigour. Here the snow usually disappears between the 1st and 15th of April, leaving very little water on the ground. The weather remains cool at nights and warm during the day until about the 15th of May, after which date frost is unusual, and plant growth begins to be rapid. Rain begins to fall early in June, and growth continues very rapid until about the middle of August. Haying commences about the middle or end of July; harvest from the middle or end of August, and is completed in September, after which growth generally ceases and the grass begins to wither; it generally remains partly green, however, so that it is good pasture, until the ground freezes in the early part of November. There is seldom any rain after the 1st of August. Snow falls in November, but does not get deep until after New Year's, nor does the weather become severe until then. January and February are the months of cold and snow. In March the weather becomes warmer and the snow disappears. As compared with the climate of Manitoba, the winter season is not so long, or stormy, or so steadily severe, but at times the thermometer goes as low as in Manitoba. The influence of the west or chinook wind is what shortens the winter, and from time to time relieves its severity by mild spells, while the abundance of timber scattered in clumps over the district shelters from the severity of the north wind.

The weather is certainly stormy at times, but on account of the abundance of shelter and fuel no great inconvenience is experienced, there is no suffering and there



is no danger. The climate differs from that of Southern Alberta in that being further removed from the mountains the chinook is not felt as strongly in winter. The winter weather is more steady, and therefore preparations are always made for it, and there is none of the loss or suffering that occurs in Montana, U.S.A., when the chinook that has been depended on fails to connect. To sum up, the weather of the long dry spring and fall is the most enjoyable that can possibly be imagined. The winter is cold, but calm, not disagreeable to anyone if properly prepared for it, and the most enjoyable season of all to many. The summer, with its rains and hot sunshine, makes up in luxuriance of growth what it lacks in other ways.

This phenomenal fertility of the soil, and wonderful salubrity of the climate are the greatest attractions that any new country can possibly offer to the settler. Where these are found together the development of the region by railways and its occupation by capital and labour can only be a question of a short time; and when they are not, all the wealth of the world and all the appliances of civilization cannot provide them. These are facts that the intending settler would do well to consider fully before deciding on his permanent location.

#### WHERE CAN LAND BE SECURED.

Any possible advantage of soil or climate in any district is of no avail to the outsider if population is so crowded, or land is held at so high a price as to prevent it being acquired in sufficient quantity or at a reasonable rate. The Dominion Lands Act provides that a settler may acquire 160 acres of land as a homestead for a cash payment of \$10, accompanied by three years residence and a small amount of cultivation. This applies to each alternate square mile or even numbered sections throughout the Territories. The other alternate square mile or odd-numbered section is reserved for sale or to be granted as a bonus in aid of railways. In the southern and eastern parts of the Territories these odd-numbered sections are held at \$2.50 an acre, in the northern and western portion at \$2 an acre. The settler must consider, if he is unable to purchase the remainder of what land he requires from the Government, in what part of the Territories will 160 acres make sufficient farm and the best farm?

The settler who comes in now while settlement is still comparatively sparse, has the opportunity to secure a location for nothing, having regard to its soil, situation and surroundings, which it would cost him many years of hard labour to purchase if he comes in a year or two hence.

#### RAILWAY COMMUNICATION.

The one objection felt by the settler to the Edmonton district is that it is as yet without railway communication.

The Calgary and Edmonton Railway is now under construction from the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Calgary. One hundred miles from Calgary to Red Deer have been built this year, and the remainder of the distance to Edmonton will be finished in time to take out the 1891 crop. The road will be operated by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company as a branch of its system. The Great North-West Central line is now being built from Brandon, Manitoba, with Edmonton as its objective point; fifty miles are already completed. Regarding the second objection, that if this had been the best country the Canadian Pacific Railway would have come this way; the answer is that the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway was built as a competing trans-continental line over the shortest route, and that from the first it was intended to depend upon the branch lines for the development of the best agricultural areas of the North-West. In proof of this, it may be cited that from the first the Canadian Pacific Railway provided that they might reject the land along their main line if any were unfit for settlement. They have, as a matter of fact, rejected some land as unfit for settlement, and have selected part of their land subsidy in Northern Alberta, adjoining, and partly included in the Edmonton district. This should be a proof positive as to the excellence of the land in this region. If





it pays the railway company, which wants to sell the land, to select it here, it will surely pay the settler who wants to use it to follow that example. It should be borne in mind that it was on the reputation of the Edmonton district, as established by the early missionaries, traders and travellers, that the reputation of the whole North-West as a field for settlement was founded.

**SOCIAL CONDITIONS.**

After all questions regarding soil, climate, products, present conditions and future prospects are answered, there still remain questions of importance, equal to, or greater than any of these. The people are more important than the country. Bad neighbours, bad laws, or bad government, a lack of educational facilities or religious privileges cannot be made up to the law-abiding, industrious, thrifty, progressive and God-fearing man or woman by the most productive soil or most genial climate. It is generally the drawback of new countries that the laws are weakly enforced, that there is a numerous lawless class, and that the man who goes into the wilderness to make a home for himself must be content to see his children grow up in ignorance, and without the restraining influences of religion which would be felt in older and more densely peopled districts. In these particulars the Canadian North-West is incomparably superior to any other country in process of settlement in the world. Throughout the length and breadth of these territories the law is as rigidly enforced, the industrious man is protected in his person and in the results of his labours as thoroughly as in the most populous rural district of Ontario. There is no lawless class, there is none of that defiance of law and destruction of order that is popularly supposed to be an outgrowth of pioneer life. The Eastern settler coming to the Canadian North-West finds himself among the people who are as deeply impressed with the necessity and advantage of maintaining law and order as were his neighbours in the East. Where population is scattered as it necessarily is in the first settlement of a new country, it is, of course, impossible that educational facilities should be as abundant as where there is a greater concentration of population and wealth, but as far as has been possible the adverse conditions existing have been made up for. Four heads of families may form a school district, and when formed the Government pays from 65 to 75 per cent. of the teacher's salary, thereby reducing the cost on the ratepayers to a merely nominal amount. This is unquestionably the most liberal provision for the support of schools in the world. With a population of something over 60,000, exclusive of Indians, there are over 200 organized school districts in the North-West. Matters of religion are as well attended to as those of education. There is not a settlement in the Territories of any consequence in which religious services are not held. In these particulars the Edmonton district is not inferior to any other in the Territories. A division of mounted police, with head quarters at Fort Saskatchewan and several outposts, ensure obedience to the law. The supreme court sits at Edmonton twice a year so that redress for wrongs done is readily available by process of civil law. There are twelve school districts within a radius of twenty miles of Edmonton. There are missionaries of the Church of England, Presbyterian, Methodist and Roman Catholic churches stationed at Edmonton; and at St. Albert, nine miles distant, is the ecclesiastical capital of the Roman Catholic diocese of St. Albert, which includes the greater part of the North-West Territories.

**THE EDMONTON DISTRICT**

occupies the north-western corner of the fertile belt of Canada, and includes the upper portion of the great Saskatchewan valley. It runs from the Battle River on the south about 150 miles to the Athabasca on the north, having the Saskatchewan River near its centre, and extends from the summit of the Rocky Mountains eastward about 300 miles to the 111th Meridian, the eastern boundary of the provisional district of Alberta. The town of Edmonton, a little south and east of the centre of the district, is in latitude 53½, the same as the Queen Charlotte Islands on the Pacific coast—which is about 400 miles distant from the western boundary of the Edmonton district—as Dublin in Ireland, Liverpool and York in the northern part of England



Holland, Hamburg in Germany—Berlin, Germany, is a very little south of 53—and considerably south of the centre of Russia, being 455 miles further south than St. Petersburg, the capital. Edmonton is further south than any part of Scotland, Denmark, Norway or Sweden.

Oats are the most certain and heaviest crop, barley and wheat about equal. These three grains have given heavier returns in this district than anywhere else in North America. Peas have not been tried extensively. Potatoes, cabbage, turnips, beets, carrots, celery, cauliflower and all the hardy vegetables show a wonderful growth and are a sure crop. The delicate vegetables can be grown, but not profitably. Wild strawberries, black currants, raspberries, gooseberries, cranberries, Saskatoon berries and choke berries are abundant. Cultivated red currants grow remarkably well and yield abundantly. The growth of other cultivated varieties of fruit has not passed the experimental stage.

Live stock of all kinds is raised extensively and does well in the Edmonton district, including horses of all grades, from heavy draught to Indian ponies, horned cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry, including turkeys. Native horses do well on the range all the year round, but good stock of whatever kind requires good treatment to bring it to its best, when it is most profitable. In its climate and facilities for raising good cattle, this district leads the rest of the Territories. There is a more abundant, varied and nutritive pasturage during a longer season in summer; there is a more abundant supply of hay procurable for winter feeding; there is a more abundant and universally distributed water supply; there are less summer or winter storms, and more shelter by means of woods from those which occur; building timber is more easily procured with which to put up stables for the winter, being nearer to the Pacific—the source of the Chinook. The winter climate is less severe than that of the districts along the Saskatchewan further east. As a consequence, a better class of cattle can be raised more cheaply and with less danger of loss in this district than anywhere else in the Territories, and therefore there is more money in the business here. The advantages which tell so heavily in favour of the district for cattle-raising tell as heavily in favour for dairying. There is a larger flow of richer milk for a longer season than elsewhere, and the quality of the butter made here is unsurpassed. Fresh butter is put upon the market in the latter end of February or the early part of March, and the supply continues until November. Sheep do well, but are not kept extensively, as cattle are less trouble and more profitable. The abundant yield of coarse grains and roots make hog raising a very profitable branch of the farmer's business. Poultry thrive excellently, and fresh eggs are plentiful every year early in March. Turkeys were introduced in 1881, and are now raised in large numbers. An experiment in bee keeping has been carried on during the past two years. Twenty swarms, an increase from six, are being wintered this year. The men who are now engaged in the experiment are confident that bee keeping will be a great success in this region, owing to the abundance of honey-bearing flowers and the long season of bloom.

The larger wild animals, such as moose and bear, and the smaller fur bearing animals, such as beaver, otter, fisher, etc., are numerous in the thickly wooded districts, and in the Rocky Mountains the big horn sheep and mountain goats are a great attraction to sportsmen. In the park region there are jumping deer, a small variety which yield excellent sport and fair venison.

Wolves are the only wild animals which are dangerous, and they are very rare, not running in packs as in the East. Coyotes, animals between the fox and wolf, are not dangerous but sometimes steal chickens and lambs. Rabbits become so numerous every seventh year as to almost amount to being a pest in winter, but they quickly decrease. The gopher, is almost unknown in the Edmonton district, as he does not like to burrow in such a depth of soft black mould. The gopher question is one which the settler in the Edmonton district has not to consider.

The numerous lakes and ponds of the district abound in ducks all summer, furnishing excellent and never-failing sport. The larger lakes, such as Beaver lake, forty miles east of Edmonton, are visited by immense flocks of waveys, geese, swans,



etc., in their annual flights north and south in the spring and fall respectively, and these are killed in large numbers. Prairie chickens are numerous in the prairie spaces, and partridges in the woods. Cranes, very large and handsome birds which frequent the open prairie, are also found, but they are not so numerous as on the great plains.

Sturgeon in the Saskatchewan, and whitefish in the large lakes in the western and northern part of the district, are the principal fish. The latter are particularly abundant and fine flavoured, equal to any fish in the world. They are sold at Edmonton in winter at from \$5 to \$10 per hundred fish. Salmon trout of large size, pike, pickerel and gold eye, are the only fish taken with the hook and line.

Coal of excellent quality is found almost everywhere in the district, at a depth of from two to thirty feet in thickness. The coal burned in the town of Edmonton is mined directly under it, tunnels being run in on the coal seams from the face of the river banks. Four mines are worked within the town limits, the coal is universally used for heating, cooking, steam-raising and blacksmithing, and is delivered from the mines at \$3 a ton. The Sturgeon River settlers use coal taken from the bank of a small tributary of the Sturgeon in that settlement, and indeed coal is easily accessible in every part of the district where a stream cuts a deep enough valley to expose the seam.

Gold is found on the bars of the Saskatchewan, in the form of fine dust. It was discovered over twenty years ago, and has been worked to a greater or less extent every year since. Last season between \$15,000, and \$20,000, worth was mined, chiefly by settlers living along the banks, who worked on the river during the slack season. An illustration of washing for gold is given on page 247. The outfit necessary for mining costs perhaps \$10 and the pay is from \$2 to \$5 a day. The deposits of pay dirt are so extensive, that it is estimated that twenty years will be required to work them out at the rate of last season. The Macleod river, in the north-western part of the district, also has gold in paying quantities. These are not rich diggings; they are in fact what are called "poor man's diggings." They will never make a man rich, but they may easily help an industrious poor man along.

Sandstone quarries exist in many places along the river, which is navigable for steamers, and there are large quantities of limestone boulders on the bars sufficient for present use, but only one limestone quarry has yet been discovered, although there is no doubt that others exist.

Traces of petroleum have been found in various parts of the district, but no satisfactory developments have been made. A little over 200 miles north of Edmonton, on the Athabasca river, in a region whose trade is directly tributary to Edmonton, begins the most extensive petroleum deposit in the known world, as established by the survey of the Canadian government geologists. Further north, on the same waters, is an immense salt deposit, the product of which has been used for many years throughout the Mackenzie River Basin.

The scenery of the Edmonton district is not its least attractive feature. The gently undulating surface showing prairie and woods charmingly interspersed, cut deeply by the Saskatchewan—a stream 1,000 feet wide at low water—and numerous smaller tributary streams and creeks; dotted with large and small fresh water ponds and lakes; the horizon marked on all sides by low, heavily wooded hills, which seem covered with a blue haze; clumps of spruce here and there giving a deeper colour in places—the whole makes a picture of calm beauty seldom seen except on canvas, and most refreshing to the eye.

The Edmonton settlement is the oldest in the Territories, and dates from the establishment of trading posts by the Hudson's Bay and North-West trading companies on the site of the present town of Edmonton, probably before the beginning of the present century. Owing to geographical position and other natural causes, it was the most important post owned by the Hudson's Bay Company in what is now the North-West Territories. The first permanent settlements were established, with Edmonton as a central point, at Lake Ste. Ann, Lac la Biche, St. Albert, Victoria, Whitefish Lake and St. Paul, before the transfer of the Territories to Canada in



1870, chiefly by missionary enterprise, whereby the Half-breeds and Indians were gathered into settled communities. All of these are still in existence, except St. Paul. The Edmonton settlement, surrounding and including the present town in which the Hudson Bay Company's fort is situated, was not commenced until after the transfer in 1870. Ever since that time there has been a constantly increasing population dependent upon agricultural pursuits for support. The early Canadian Pacific Railway surveys through the Jasper Pass, for which Edmonton was the base of supplies, brought the place somewhat prominently before the Eastern public, and in 1880 and 1881, when it was finally decided to build the line, there was a large influx of Canadian settlers, who expected the railway to follow in a few years. The change of route by way of the Kicking Horse Pass, which carried the line 200 miles south of Edmonton, was a severe disappointment to them. Notwithstanding this, population and prosperity have steadily, though slowly, increased, and Edmonton settlement has spread so as to include a tract of country about twenty-five miles long by twenty miles wide, having a population of over 3,000. Within that area there are schools and churches, stores and hotels, shops and mills, telegraph and telephone, just as in the more populous settlements of Manitoba. There are 5,131 acres under cultivation, and 3,649 cattle, 953 horses, 1,483 pigs, and 707 sheep are owned. Outside that area there is practically no settlement, although equal opportunities await the enterprising man, until the outlying settlements mentioned above are reached.

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[As this form goes to press, the only one not printed off, word comes that at the Winnipeg Agricultural Show, North-West wheat has been pronounced by competent judges the finest ever seen. The reader will remember what has been said about the magnificent facilities for sheep raising in Alberta and all over the Territories. Mr. Carrothers of Buck Lake, South of Regina, took thirteen prizes for Sheep.—Ed.]





## THE TOWN OF EDMONTON

is situated chiefly on the north bank of the Saskatchewan on the 14th base line, between townships 52 and 53, in range 24, west of the 4th Meridian, and in sections 2 and 3 of 53, and 32 and 33 of 52. The population is a little over 500. It contains the Hudson's Bay Company's establishment, which is the supply depot of that company for its various outlying posts in the Edmonton district, and the forwarding depot for the Peace, Athabasca and Mackenzie River districts to the north, which include the whole Mackenzie basin to the Arctic Ocean and part of the Yukon as well; six mercantile establishments, whose stocks contain everything from sides of bacon to ostrich plumes; hardware, drugs, jewellery and stationery, furniture and military stores, newspaper office, shoe shop, harness shop, tailor shop, four blacksmith shops, four carpenter shops, two butcher shops, a bakery, boat building and carriage repairing establishment, photograph gallery, four churches, two schools, four hotels, Dominion lands agency, registry office, crown timber office, telegraph office, post office with money order facilities, police station, an extensive telephone service, large grist and saw mill, with all kinds of wood dressing machinery, and a brick yard. The Supreme Court sits at Edmonton twice a year, and it is at present the head of steamboat navigation on the river.

At Fort Saskatchewan, eighteen miles further down the river, is the headquarters of the mounted police division, two general stores, post office, telegraph office, hotel, blacksmith and carpenter shop and bakery. The Saskatchewan is crossed at both Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan by means of large ferry scows, which are safely, quickly and easily operated.

At St. Albert, nine miles northwest of Edmonton, on the Sturgeon River, are two general stores, blacksmith and carpenter shops, post office and telephone connection with Edmonton. The cathedral church of St. Albert Roman Catholic diocese is situated there, with the residence of the Bishop, and a convent of sisters of charity, who conduct a hospital and orphanage. There are also two hotels and a steam flouring mill.

At Clover Bar, on the south side of the Saskatchewan, half way between Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan, there is a post office. All four post offices mentioned have a weekly mail service from Calgary.

About forty miles west of Edmonton, Moore & Macdowall and Lamoureux Bros. have saw mills, equipped with all machinery for dressing lumber. The former have a lumber yard in Edmonton, and the latter depend chiefly on the Battleford market, which they reach by rafting down the river.

The advantages of situation for the present and future enjoyed by Edmonton as a trade centre are: The most fertile farming country by which it is entirely surrounded, suitable in the highest degree for profitable stock raising and dairying as well; the coal deposits which underlie the town extend for at least 150 miles up the river, which is large enough to permit light draught steamers to bring the coal down and deliver it at points further down the river where there is no coal: The supply of sawing timber on the upper part of the river and its tributaries, for which a continually extending market will be made by the settlement of the more open country further down the river, and of which Edmonton is and will be the milling depot; the gold washings of the river, which extend for a distance of about 80 miles below and the same distance above Edmonton, which will yield a small revenue for many years; the trade of the Mackenzie basin, an area of 1,200 miles from north to south by 800 from east to west, which embraces large agricultural areas, valuable forests, immense lakes stocked with whitefish, vast deposits of petroleum, salt and sulphur, and doubtless other minerals of value, as it is believed by geologists that the gold of the Saskatchewan was brought by glacial action from the part of the Laurentian range which bounds the Mackenzie basin on the east—the whole of which trade is from natural reasons tributary to Edmonton. It is the fur



trade of this vast region which at the present time gives the Edmonton farmer a better local market than other settlements along the Saskatchewan have. This trade keeps employed three large steamers—the Athabasca, the Grahame and the Wrigley, on the waters of the Mackenzie, and causes an immense amount of freighting from the railway, which is principally done by the Edmonton settlers and adds greatly to the revenue of the district.

#### MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

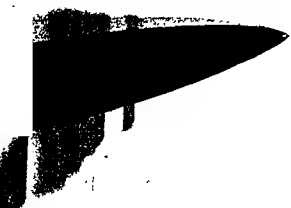
Mails, travellers, and nine-tenths of the freight now reach Edmonton by trail of 196 miles from Calgary. The road is passable at all seasons of the year, and is generally good. There is very little settlement along the trail, so that in summer stock can be driven freely, grazing as they go, and freighters' cattle and horses can get enough to eat without being stabled. There are houses about every ten miles where travellers can be entertained, generally comfortably but not luxuriously, and offering convenient shelter in case of winter travelling. For sixty miles north of Calgary the country is bare rolling prairie, the Rocky mountains showing up grandly to the west. The partly wooded country there commences at the Lone Pine and continues to Edmonton. The Red Deer and Battle Rivers and several large creeks are crossed, but all of importance are bridged except the Red Deer, upon which there is a ferry when the water is high enough to permit it to run. At other times the ford is good. The stage fare is \$15 to \$25, and the freight rate one to three cents a pound. The trip is five days by stage and eight to twelve by freight. When the roads are good it can easily be made in four days, by a smart team.

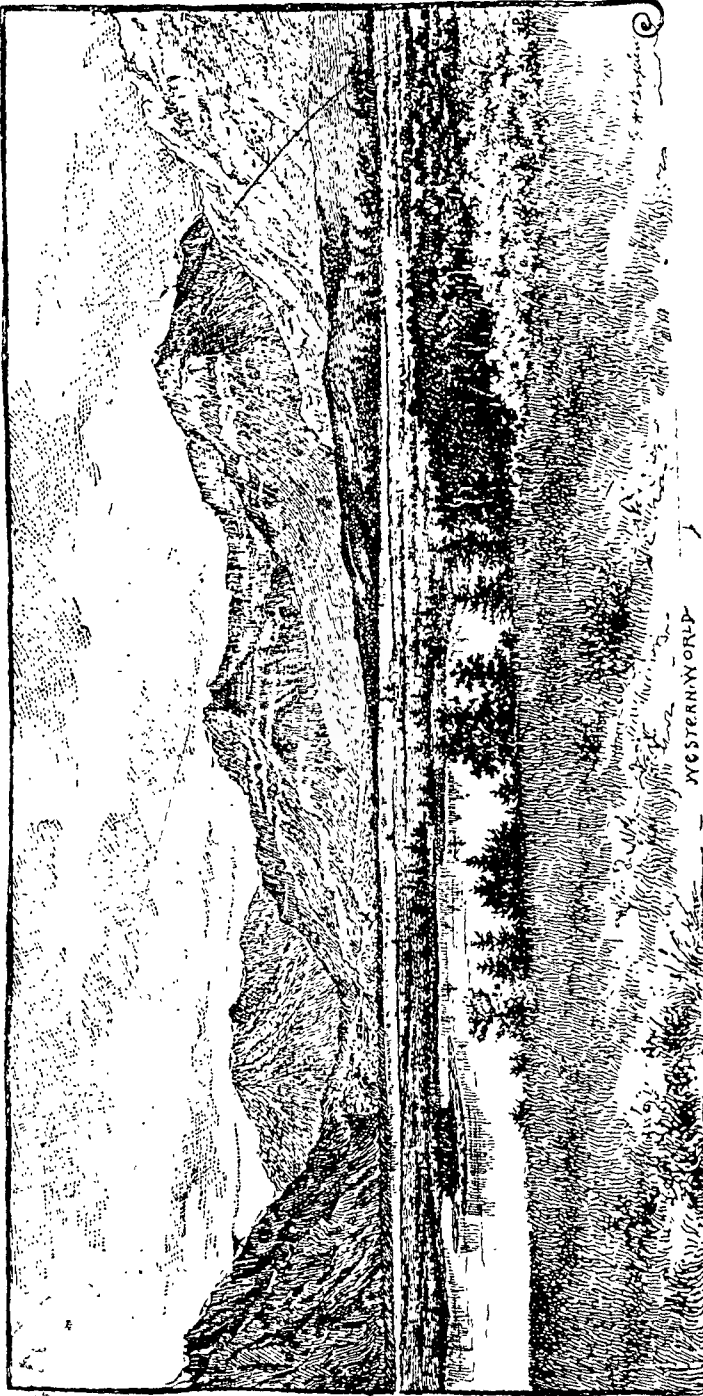
There is water communication with Winnipeg by means of the Saskatchewan River and Lake Winnipeg, and during the past ten years from one to five steamers have visited Edmonton each year, except last, bringing passengers and freight from Winnipeg. But that route is so circuitous and uncertain, on account of bad connections and low water, that the overland route by way of Calgary is preferred.

As already stated, the Calgary and Edmonton railway will be in operation in 1891, and the transportation question will thus be practically solved.

#### WHY LOCATE NOW?

The reason for the settler locating at Edmonton now, just in advance of the railway is, that by coming to Edmonton he gets natural advantages which do not and can never exist in other parts of the country; he has a choice of location within reach of schools, churches, mills, stores and government offices which he will not have if he waits, and which he has not in any other district of the territories, no matter how close the railway line may be; he has the opportunity to locate near what is now an important market town, and the trade centre of a larger district than any other town or city in Canada; he has the fullest opportunity to establish himself in a permanent and comfortable home, and reasonable assurance that as soon as he needs the railway it will be at his door. It is a well known fact that when the railway is being built is when the farmer makes most money. The settler who comes in before the railway, and by having a surplus of crop and stock is prepared to take advantage of the temporary boom caused by construction, and the consequent immigration, has by just so much the advantage over the settler who comes in after construction is completed, when all choice locations are taken either by settlers or speculators, when hay lands have been gobbled and woods cut down, and when the markets ten thousand miles away, less freight charges and retail dealers' and middlemen's profits irrevocably rule prices. By coming to the Edmonton district while there is still plenty of choice of locations, the new settler has the advantage not only of the appliances of civilization, which are the result of the enterprise of those who come before him, but also of their years of practical experience, through which the special advantages and drawbacks of the district have been proven. If he goes to a section of the country newly opened up, he must get along without these appliances of civilization and must experiment for himself, and most likely suffer many losses and disappointments before the various qualities of the soil and the many changes of the climate are thoroughly understood.





WESTERN WORLD

BANFF.



## SOUTHERN ALBERTA.

THE ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF MACLEOD.

*Compiled by F. W. G. Haultain, M.L.A.*

The Macleod electoral district comprises all that part of Alberta south of the Calgary electoral district, and is bounded on the north by the fifth base line in the Dominion lands system of survey, on the east by the western boundary of the provisional district of Assiniboia, on the south by the international boundary line and on the west by the eastern boundary of the Province of British Columbia. The physical characteristics of the district are well marked. In the west, abruptly rising from the foothills and prairie plateau, for it is difficult to determine where the one ends and the other begins, is the grand chain of the Rocky Mountains, whose average elevation may be roughly placed at 5,600 feet, and base level at 4,300 feet, though many parts are much higher. The mountains loom up in bold and strong relief against the western horizon, a mighty rampart of limestone peaks, their bases clothed with pine, their summits almost bare rock, except where covered by perennial snow. The foothills extending about 20 miles east of the mountains are generally bare of trees, but in spring are soft and green with the verdure of innumerable grasses; in summer gay with brilliant mosses and flowers; and in autumn richly tinted with a warm, purple, heatherlike glow. As a sort of annex to the foothills proper, are the Porcupine Hills, extending from High River in the north to the Old Man River in the south. The Porcupine Hills are about 20 miles in width, and in some parts are covered with Douglas pine and other timber, in others with a close, rich growth of grass. They are well watered by Tennessee, Beaver, Olsen, Front, Meadow and Willow creeks, tributaries of the Old Man, all clear, swift flowing streams, abounding in trout. There are also innumerable springs throughout the hills. These hills afford a magnificent winter range for thousands of cattle, and their numberless broad and well sheltered valleys offer unrivalled locations for mixed farming.

On the east, the foothills merge into the undulations of the prairie plateau. The foothills and prairie are covered with thick and luxuriant grasses, including the well known buffalo and bunch grass, which, once the favourite food of the buffalo, are now as eagerly sought after by the cattle and horses that have taken their place. The soil, throughout the district, may be generally said to be a dark vegetable mould overlying a rich brown loam. The plateau is traversed by swift, clear rivers and streams, heading in the mountains and cutting through the foothills where they are fed by numerous creeks and rivulets. In the south is the St. Mary's River, with its tributary Lees creek, where there is a large and growing settlement, including the celebrated Mormon colony. Mixed farming and dairying have proved a success in this part of the district.

## THE DISTRICT'S RESOURCES.

Southern Alberta has long been well known as a stock-raising country. Capital and enterprise early availed themselves of its advantages, and 100,000 cattle and 7,000 horses, with a good local market, and a gradually increasing export trade, attest the success of that industry and the importance to which it has risen. With cattle ranching on a large scale this article will not attempt to deal. That business is well established, and only invites people with a very large capital, who are bound to find the country out without reference to immigration literature. The ranges of Southern Alberta equal, if they do not excel, the finest grazing lands of Montana, Wyoming and Texas in the United States, and are still comparatively unstocked. Unfortunately for this district it has long been known only as a cattle-ranching country; and the impression has gone abroad, and has been industriously fostered by interested persons that Southern Alberta is a purely ranching country and unfitted for agricultural operations. Another obstacle to settlement in this district has been the generally received opinion that all the land is covered by grazing leases.





To the intending immigrant I would call attention to the following facts: 1. That ten years' experience proves that the land in all parts of the district raises good grain and magnificent roots. 2. That in the Macleod district *and outside the grazing leases* there are hundreds of thousands of acres of good land open for homesteading. 3. That for stock raising of all sorts the district seems to have been specially designed by nature. 4. That for dairying in all its branches the district is specially suited on account of its unexcelled grass, abundant supply of water and cool summer nights. 5. That the whole district is pre-eminently adapted for mixed farming.

Good land in a well watered country with plenty of fuel and timber within easy distance invites the settler throughout the Macleod district. In the Pincher Creek and Waterton country, about Lee's Creek and the St. Mary's River, in the Porcupine Hills and the fertile lands on the Old Man and Belly Rivers, in the beautiful Willow Creek country, and at the Lethbridge end of the district, cattle and horse raising, grain growing, dairying and cropping of roots are followed successfully. The experience of settlers in the district is in favour of mixed farming and dairying. Grass and hay are abundant and nutritious, and water is plentiful and of good quality. Stock of all kinds do well throughout the winter with no other provision or shelter than that afforded by nature. The hilly and broken character of the country, the dry bracing air, and the hard dry soil, with deep coulees and gravelly ridges, afford the best natural facilities for producing the hard hoof, well developed loin and muscle and lung power in horses. The horse breeding interest is becoming a very important one, and a large number of thoroughbred and Clyde sires are raising the standard to a high degree of excellence.

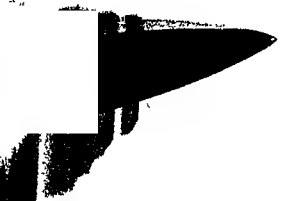
There is coal underlying the whole district, and the river bottoms are fairly well timbered. In the Porcupine Hills there are magnificent stretches of timber, while the whole of the Mountain district is thickly wooded. The principal coal mines are at Lethbridge and are described elsewhere in this book: Mines are worked near Pincher Creek and on the Waterton river, and coal can be obtained on any of the rivers.

There is plenty of land open to homesteading, and other Government land is sold at \$2.50 per acre. There are saw mills at Mill Creek, near Pincher Creek, at Macleod and at Lethbridge. At Pincher Creek and Lethbridge good brick is made and there is good clay at Macleod. A capital building stone is found on the Belly River, near Lethbridge, and there are good stone quarries (undeveloped) at many points in the district.

Besides coal mining there has been little other mining in the district. There has been a certain amount of desultory prospecting in the Mountains but no important discoveries have been made except petroleum. Near the Waterton or Kootenai Lakes very promising indications of a large petroleum field have been discovered. A number of claims have been secured by a powerful company, and elaborate tests will be made within a year. The prospect of a railway through the Crow's Nest Pass is stimulating the search for minerals; and the expected discovery of iron or copper, in conjunction with the enormous coal supply, suggest great possibilities for the district.

The names alone of the rivers in the district suggest a splendid supply of water, and good wells are easily obtained in most places at a depth varying from ten to fifty feet. The water is invariably cold and good. The towns and settlements in the district offer good markets for dairy and farm produce.

About central in the district is the Town of Lethbridge, which occupies a unique position among the towns of Western Canada. It is not in any sense dependent on the weather or crops. Rain or shine the increasing output of coal goes on. The colliery and railway give employment to a large number of men who are promptly paid monthly, and as a consequence the business done by the merchants is practically a cash one. With a present output of 800 tons of coal a day the company's pay roll is close on to \$60,000 a month. By 1st January next, the increased output will have brought it up to \$80,000. When the other three shafts are developed, which will



be by the middle of next summer, the capacity of the colliery will be 2,000 tons a day, necessitating a pay roll of close on to \$150,000 a month. There is no doubt the output will be up to this during next year, the market which has now been secured being practically limited only by the company's power of production. The present population of Lethbridge is close on to 2,000. In a year's time, it is reasonable to expect, that it will have at least doubled. At present the company purchases directly from the merchants of the town to the extent of about \$3,000 a month.

Owing to its central position and to its railway facilities Lethbridge is the distributing point for Southern Alberta. Application has been made for a charter of incorporation as a town, which will doubtless be granted at the session of the Legislative Assembly to be held at an early date. The certainty of a large increase in population has caused considerable activity in real estate, lots in town having advanced considerably in value.

Another place of considerable importance is the Town of Macleod, on the south bank of Old Man River, 30 miles west of Lethbridge. Situated in the centre of the famous ranching district which bears its name, it does a large and profitable business. Macleod was founded in 1874 by Col. Macleod, who, with a force of 150 men—the pioneer troop of the Mounted Police—made a memorable march across the plains in search of whiskey peddlers. Here a fort was erected, and it was unanimously determined to call it after its founder, the name of the barracks being afterwards transferred to the town itself. Macleod was then cut off from communication with Canada, and was reached by way of Missouri River to Benton, thence by stage journey of 200 miles. At its inception such extensive firms as I. G. Baker & Co. and T. C. Power & Co. opened branches and were soon followed by other merchants. In 1876, farming operations were inaugurated, and a few years later the capabilities of the country for cattle raising being appreciated, large herds were brought in, and the venture proving profitable, a number of stock companies were organized, and the cattle business at once expanded into pretty large proportions.

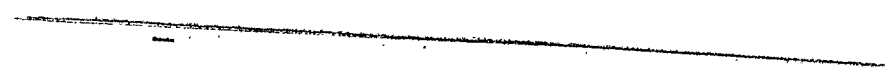
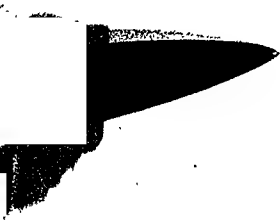
[The Compiler wishes to express his thanks to Dr. Kennedy and Messrs. Mollison and Wm. Black, of Macleod, and Mr. C. C. McCaul, Q.C., of Lethbridge, from all of whom he has borrowed liberally.]

### RED DEER.

The District of "Red Deer" situated about ninety miles north of Calgary is one of the most interesting parts of the North-West, and in the near future is likely to attract the attention of a full share of the incoming settlers. "Red Deer Town" at the crossing of the Red Deer River and Calgary and Edmonton Railway, is safe to become one of the best agricultural centres of this district. Though still in its infancy its natural advantages predict for it a prosperous and substantial future. The resources of the district are well and truthfully described in a report furnished by the Rev. Leo Gaetz to the Committee on Colonization and Agriculture, on the 26th February, 1880, at Ottawa, which has been published in pamphlet form and can be obtained upon application to the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa.

There is no doubt that the Red Deer Settlement will compare very favourably with any other locality in Alberta as the following article compiled by the Rev. Leo Gaetz, will point out:

The following places are important centres:—Banff, famous for its hot mineral springs, and the beauty and variety of its scenery—mountain and forest and stream. This is the Canadian National Park, and the Canadian Pacific Railway Hotel here one of the finest on the continent, is fitted with every modern convenience and can accommodate with ease about three hundred persons. Then there is the Sanitarium, provided with all facilities for baths and a private hospital where invalids can be well looked after. These hot mineral baths are already celebrated for their efficacy in curing rheumatism, scrofulous affections and all kinds of skin diseases. The climate, which during the whole year is serene and beautiful, attracts a large number



of persons from the old countries who suffer from pulmonary troubles. Anthracite, where is an inexhaustible seam of pure Anthracite coal. Canmore, a divisional point of the Canadian Pacific Railway, where there are also coal mines. Morley, the oldest town in Alberta, and not the least interesting, the capital of a fine ranching country, near which is the reservation of the Stoney Indians and the residence of the Rev. John McDougall, the oldest missionary in the Territories.

Red Deer District extends from the summit of the Rocky Mountains (the dividing line between British Columbia and the North-West Territories) eastward about 200 miles and north and south nearly the same distance. Within its boundaries are to be found a variety of interests. Farming and ranching in what is known



CANOEING.



as the Red Deer Country. Ranching in the foot-hills about Morley. The lumber interests of Kananaskis and the Bow River Valley. The mining interests of Canmore and Anthracite, and the health giving properties of the hot sulphur springs of Banff, all contribute to make Red Deer District one of the most important in the North-West Territories, and cannot fail to attract the attention of a full share of the coming settlers.

Morley, forty miles west of Calgary, is the head quarters of the Stony Indian Reserve. This section is unsurpassed for beauty as well as a ranching country. A ride over these breezy hills, covered from brow to valley with rich nutritious grasses dotted everywhere with trees in park like groves, here and there a spring of water a rivulet, a lake, will leave an impression never to be forgotten. The Bow River with its canyon like banks and with many a graceful curve and sweep, flows through a plain, but soon the land on either side begins to rise and roll until, on the one hand buttress like, they strengthen and grace the feet of the Crested Rockies, while on the other with gentle sweep they blend with the prairie. In these wooded valleys the cattle find shelter and abundant pasturage, and come out in the spring ready for the market. Morley is the home of the Rev. John McDougal, the Superintendent of Methodist Missions in the North-West, who is assisted at this point by the Rev. E. B. Stienhom, a college bred native Indian. While an orphanage very much enlarged and improved this past year is under the direction of Mr. Yomans.

At Kananaskis a saw-mill with a capacity of 15,000 feet in 12 hours, sings as it devours the mountain fir and spruce. Just beyond this point the locomotive enters the mighty gateway of the mountains with a shriek of triumph proclaiming that the march of civilization cannot be successfully resisted even by their gigantic barrier.

Canmore, a divisional point on the Canadian Pacific Railway, with round house and strong staff of railway officials, has a future as a mining town. The coal has been successfully tested in locomotives and on the war ships at Vancouver, and when the Cochrane Company completes the tunnel and thus strikes the coal seams on the level they will be able to produce a supply more cheaply and speedily.

Passing Anthracite one can only regret that these promising mines have been idle all year. The prospect is, however, that the Company will resume operations this spring. The coal is pure anthracite and practically inexhaustible in quantity.

Banff, beautiful for situation, has now a fame world-wide as a most charming and invigorating health resort. Time and space forbid an attempt to describe the beauties of this mountain retreat: suffice it to say that every arrangement is made for the convenience and comfort of visitors.

### RED DEER COUNTRY.

The Red Deer County may be said to extend from 46 miles north of Calgary to 30 miles north of the Red Deer River, some 80 miles in extent and extending east and west of the Calgary and Edmonton Railway from 10 to 15 miles, containing one and a quarter million acres unsurpassed for fertility in the North-West Territory.

The first 20 miles of this stretch of country north and south, or from Scarlets to the Lone Pine is undulating prairie, free from brush and well adapted for the growth of cereals. No better wheat, oats or barley land can be desired. Roots wherever tried grow to perfection. From the Lone Pine north for 60 miles, the country is park like, dotted over with groves of spruce and poplar and interspersed with numerous rivers, creeks, lakes, ponds and hay sloughs, probably the most perfect country for mixed farming yet open to settlement. The principal rivers are the Red Deer, Little Red Deer, Medicine and Blindman rivers, the first a mountain stream of 150 yards average width and pure spring water. All the others originate in spring lakes, along the line of the foothills, but some distance east of them. All afford magnificent water power.

### CLIMATE, ETC.

The climate is remarkably healthy and entirely free from endemics or epidemics.

Persons who were confirmed invalids in some of the Eastern provinces from various pulmonary affections have here become robust, and nothing could induce them to return to the east.





The climate resembles that of Central Europe with the exception of being dryer and less enervating.

The average temperature for the summer months is about 60° Fahrenheit, of the winter about 36° F.

Spring opens and seeding begins about the 1st of April. We have known the seeding to be finished by the 8th of April, though in occasional years not begun before the 10th or 15th of that month.

Harvest varies, according to the amount of dry hot weather, from the 12th to the 20th of August.

Winter sets in fully about the 20th of December and breaks up about the beginning of March.

The winter affords opportunity for drawing hay from the sloughs, where it is made and stacked in summer, and getting out Timber for building into log houses or to be cut into lumber for frame building.

There is not on an average 4 days in a winter when this work cannot be pursued with perfect comfort.

#### CROPS, ETC.

The crops generally raised are wheat, barley, oats, peas, flax, turnips, potatoes, carrots, beets and mangolds. Regarding grain growing we give the average results of two years on three different farms fairly representing the character of the soil throughout this entire district. These farms are situated near the crossing of the Red Deer river. One a river bottom, another sandy loam beach, a third clay loam beach.

Variety grown	Bushels grown per acre.	lbs per measured bushel.
Wheat, Defiance and Ladoga.....	42	63
White barley.....	55	56
Black barley.....	35	70
Oats, sandwich.....	70	46
Oats, white Egyptian.....	65	48
Oats, new welcome.....	60	48
Peas.....	30	66
Flax.....	23	60

Potatoes 400 bushel per acre, turnips 600.

We have in exceptional cases seen at the rate of 726 bushels of potatoes and 1200 bushels of turnips per acre.

#### STOCK RAISING AND RANCHING.

This section of country is not what is properly known as ranching country. The snow often falling to the depth of 18 inches and remaining for weeks together endangers stock that is left to depend solely on what they can procure of themselves, but for stock held in such numbers as can be housed or shedded and fed when occasion requires, it is unsurpassed on the continent. The grass is rich and abundant, the water is plentiful and pure, the shelter is cheap and convenient.

The stock that is here and known to succeed well are Short Horn grade cattle, Percheron grade horses, Leicester and Shropshire sheep. As fine specimens of this stock have been produced here as are to be found in any part of Canada. There are at present splendid openings for the investment of capital in pure bred Durham cattle, Clyde or Percheron horses, or Shropshire sheep, to supply pure bred sires to ranchmen and farmers. No enterprise, if wisely handled, offers better promise of substantial profit.

#### DAIRY FARMING.

This district has frequently been spoken of as a paradise for dairymen and not without reason. The practically illimitable stretches of pasture lands contain-



ing the richest herbage, pea vine and vetches found in great abundance, in addition to a great variety of other grasses, furnish the most nutritive grazing that can be desired. While the pure spring water, dry atmosphere and cool nights supply all the accessory requirements for the growth and development of this most important and profitable industry. With the facilities for transport now afforded this district by the building of the Calgary and Edmonton Railroad and the ever augmenting markets now opening in the mining districts right at hand, it is safe to predict that in the near future the dairying industry will be one of vast proportions and corresponding profit.

#### FUEL SUPPLY.

The fuel problem is solved by the fact that in addition to this district being fairly well wooded in all parts, and the upper waters of all the rivers being lined with dense forests extending far up among the foot-hills of the Rocky Mountains, the entire district is reported by the Geological Survey to be underlaid with coal of excellent quality. Some banks through which the river has cut its channel showing a depth by actual measurement of 52 feet to the water's edge and continuing under the water. Though no coal is as yet operated, partly from the fact that as yet wood has been so abundant, there is little doubt that the Calgary and Edmonton Railroad will shortly develop these mines to supply the country south of 49.

#### VACANT LANDS.

Throughout this entire district there is yet abundant land open for homestead within a few miles of the rising town of Red Deer, which will constitute a central shipping point as well as the various stations along the railway now in course of construction, making a convenient market for the products of the country. The soil is everywhere of the best quality, and the climate offering upon the whole no more serious obstacle to successful agriculture than are to be found in some form or other in all agricultural countries old or new. It is a suggestive fact that no improved land is offering, so that a market price is difficult to fix, but it may be put down from \$2 to \$5 per acre for unimproved and from \$5 to \$20 for improved farms.

#### BUILDING MATERIAL.

There are vast supplies of timber for building, fencing, &c., in or adjacent to the district. Lumber of local manufacture can be had from \$14 to \$20 per thousand feet rough, and from \$22 to \$26 dressed. Shingles, \$3.50 per thousand. Unlimited quarries of splendid building stone (blue and grey) sandstone all along the principal rivers and creeks.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

In not a solitary instance has there been a failure in obtaining an abundant supply of the purest spring water at an average depth of 23 feet.

For stock there are numerous small lakes and creeks, and in many places springs cropping out on the side of hills, running a short distance and disappearing.

These, with the main rivers, constitute an abundant supply of water for stock and domestic purposes.

#### MARKET PRICES.

Wheat, \$1; oats, 60 to 65c.; barley, 65 to 70c.; potatoes, 60c.; beef, 6 to 8c.; butter, 20 to 35c.

The local demand, by reason of influx of settlers: freight traffic on the northern trail, stage line, and mounted police, has been sufficient to consume the products, hitherto as the settlement of the district has only fairly begun, but the completion of the Calgary and Edmonton roads will open the markets of southern territories of the mountain region, besides affording easy access to the Pacific Coast from whence, *via* C.P.R. steamers, we may reach with our surplus products, the vast Empires of the East.



#### CHURCHES.

In addition to a resident Methodist minister, at Red Deer Town, visiting the outlying settlements regularly, the Presbyterian church appoints a student during the summer months, and the church of England have clergymen visiting at certain times, so that for a new settlement it well provided with regular ordinances.

#### GAME AND FISH.

Game and fish are abundant; bear and elk are now very rare, but jumping deer and black tail deer are often seen. Prairie wolf, red fox, occasionally a silver grey fox. Badger, lynx, beaver are found in all parts of the district. Wild ducks and geese, prairie chicken and partridges are abundant. Trout, pike, pickerel, gold eye, &c., are in all rivers and in some lakes; in this district magnificent whitefish abound.

#### FRUIT CULTURE.

Raspberry and strawberry, black, white and red currants have been tried with a good measure of success. Young apple trees planted two years ago have made rapid growth and give good promise though it is premature to predict the result of the experiment as yet. Wild fruits are found in great abundance: gooseberries, currants, strawberries, raspberries and Saskatoon berries.

To name the wild flowers would require an expert botanist. In summer the whole country is a vast flower garden.

#### ROADS AND BRIDGES.

The Calgary and Edmonton trail is a beautiful natural road running through the centre of this district for 80 miles. The recent expenditure of the Territorial Assembly in bridging the streams has made it a very excellent traffic road. Branching off from this main road are numerous trails, convenient to any section of the district, and the firm, smooth face of the country allows the settler to make a road with ease in any direction that suits his convenience.

#### AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, SEED, GRAIN AND CATTLE.

The immediate district is fairly well supplied with cattle and horses, which may be purchased at reasonable prices. Cows from \$30 to \$45, according to quality. Horses from \$75 to \$125 each. Agricultural implements have been purchased in Calgary up to the present, but they can now be had at Red Deer town, on the Calgary & Edmonton Railway.

#### POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH FACILITIES.

There is an established post office at the Town of Red Deer; also at Cash City. These facilities (as well as the establishment of a telegraph line) will be greatly increased by means of the railway now in course of construction.

The nature of sub-soil varies from stiff clay to a firm mixture of sand and clay. The soil everywhere is a black loam from 10 inches to 3 feet in depth.

Alberta is represented in the Dominion Parliament by D. W. Davis, M.P.



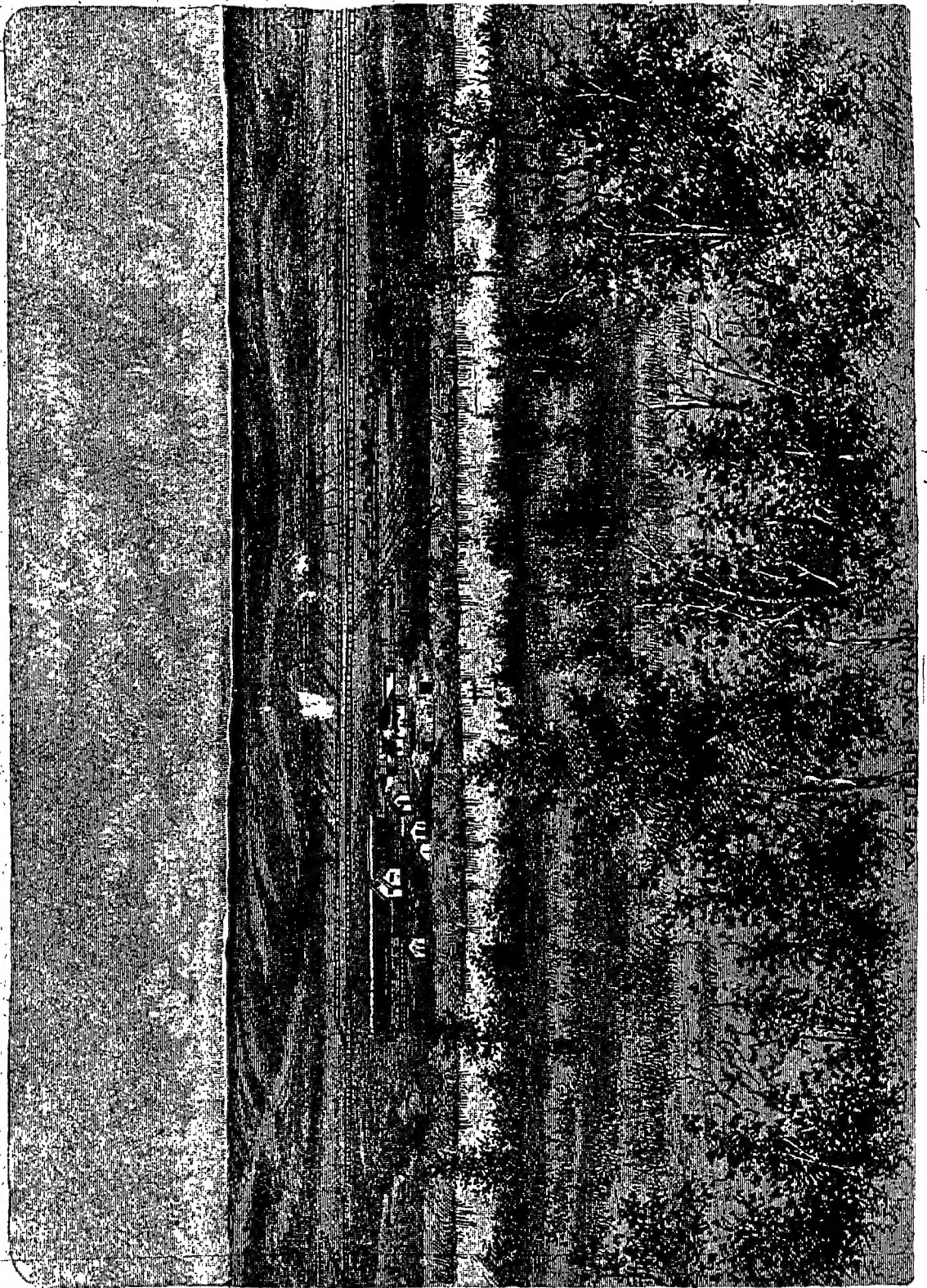


The reader has been carried over the whole Territories under the guidance of responsible men. We know the country well, and we can sincerely say the statements of the various writers are careful, guarded, honest, and where enthusiastic, the enthusiasm is justified. Once more we bid the *FARMER* and *FARM LABOURER* to enter and possess the land.

Inert people, without enthusiasm, and with a poor, barren imagination, sometimes express surprise that highly-educated men and women, who have seen all the Old World has to show, should be able, as they say, "to bury themselves in the wilderness," and "live away from civilization." They little know the beauties of that "wilderness," and we have seen that "civilization" entered the North-West side by side with the settler. Nor are people whose ambition is satisfied by attending balls and five-o'clock teas capable of realizing the serious noble pleasure of aiding in building up a new country, affecting the course of the world around, and effecting something for your fellow men. All the charms that belong to youth, hope, energy are found in the North-West, and the bracing influence of the new free land on mind and character is very remarkable. The Ontario farmer is a fine specimen of the yeoman, but three years in the North-West raises him still higher in the scale of manhood—while a commensurate improvement is noticed in all classes and races from Europe who have come amongst us, having the essential qualities of capacity for work, perseverance, sobriety, intelligence.







RAWLINSON'S RANCH, NEAR CALGARY, ALBERTA.